

Featuring **THE BLACK HOOD**
TOP-NOTCH
comics

No. 10

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ALSO
THE
WIZARD
WITH
ROY THE
SUPER-BOY

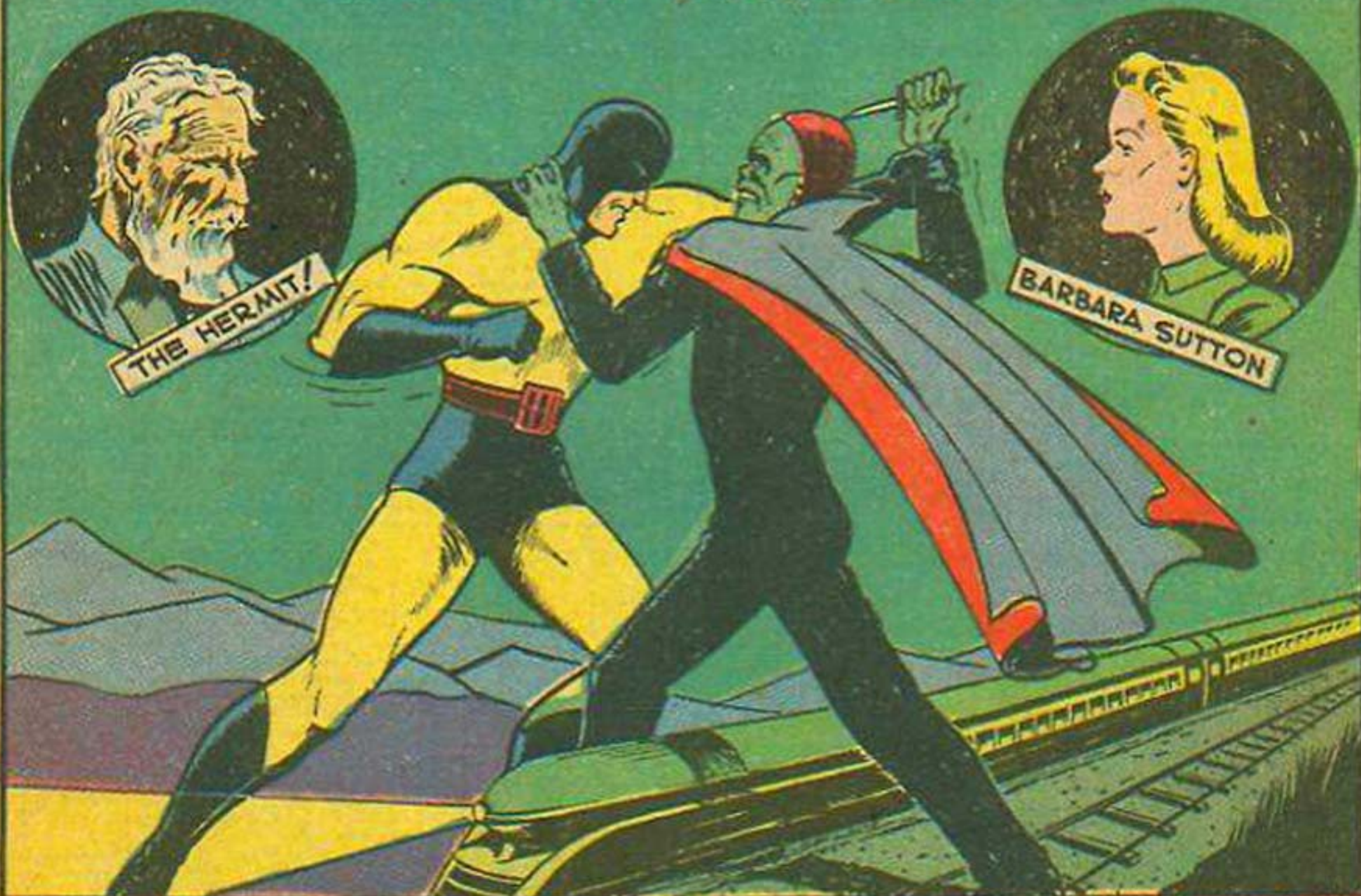


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THE BLACK HOOD

MAN OF MYSTERY

by Al Capp
AND
Cliff Campbell



SAVED FROM DEATH BY A HERMIT, KIP BURLAND HAS SWORN TO SPEND HIS LIFE TRACKING DOWN SOCIETY'S GREATEST ENEMY, A SUPER-KILLER KNOWN ONLY AS *THE SKULL*. TRAINED IN SCIENCE AND CRIMINOLOGY, AND WITH TREMENDOUS PHYSICAL POWERS, KIP HAS BECOME THE *BLACK HOOD*, THE MAN OF MYSTERY..... IN THE LAST ISSUE THE *BLACK HOOD* CONQUERED *THE SKULL*, AND TURNED HIM OVER TO THE POLICE.....

....AND THEN HE RETURNED TO HIS BENEFAC-TOR AND TEACHER, THE HERMIT!

MARK MY WORDS, KIP. WE HAVEN'T HEARD THE LAST OF *THE SKULL*. NO JAIL WILL EVER HOLD HIM!



HE'S SMART ALL RIGHT, BUT HOW WILL HE BREAK JAIL?

FLASH! *THE SKULL* IS LOOSE AGAIN. IN A DARING DAYLIGHT JAIL-BREAK, *THE SKULL* GAINED HIS FREE-DOM TODAY....

EVERY GUARD IN THE ENTIRE PRISON WAS THE VICTIM OF AN INGENIOUS MASS DRUGGING THAT LEFT NO ONE AWAKE TO OPPOSE HIM!







THE SKULL!
IT'S HIS
WORK!

QUENTIN'S
PREMONITION
WAS RIGHT!

GOOD
HEAVENS!



THE NEXT DAY, NEWSPAPERS ALL
OVER THE NATION CARRY THE
NEWS THAT *THE SKULL* HAS CHOS-
EN HIS FIRST VICTIM! WHO WILL
BE THE NEXT TO FALL BEFORE
THIS MASTER OF ALL KILLERS?

NEW YORK
INVENTOR FOUR
DEAD



I'M GLAD YOU STAYED OVER BARBARA,
YOU WERE A GREAT COMFORT IN MY
SORROW. BUT THE MAJOR SUSPECTED
THAT SOMETHING WAS GOING
TO HAPPEN TO HIM, AND HE TOLD
ME TO RUSH TO THE WAR DEPART-
MENT WITH THE PLANS OF HIS
LATEST INVENTION!



I HAVE NOTHING TO DO,
MRS. DUFF. I'LL GO WITH
YOU!

AND IF *THE SKULL* IS
FOLLOWING YOU, THE
BLACK HOOD WILL BE
ON HIS TRAIL... AND
GOSH! HOW I'D LOVE
TO SEE HIM AGAIN!



DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT
A THING, MRS. DUFF! I'LL TAKE
CARE OF ALL THE AR-
RANGEMENTS!



PAHDON
ME, MAM!

WHY DON'T YOU
WATCH WHERE
YOU'RE WALKING?

OH!



THANK YOU
BARBARA!

I'LL
GET
IT
FOR
YOU!



BUT AS BARBARA BENDS DOWN, A
LEAN HAND REACHE'S FROM
SEEMINGLY NOWHERE, TO SHOVE
THE END OF A HEAVY TRUNK.....



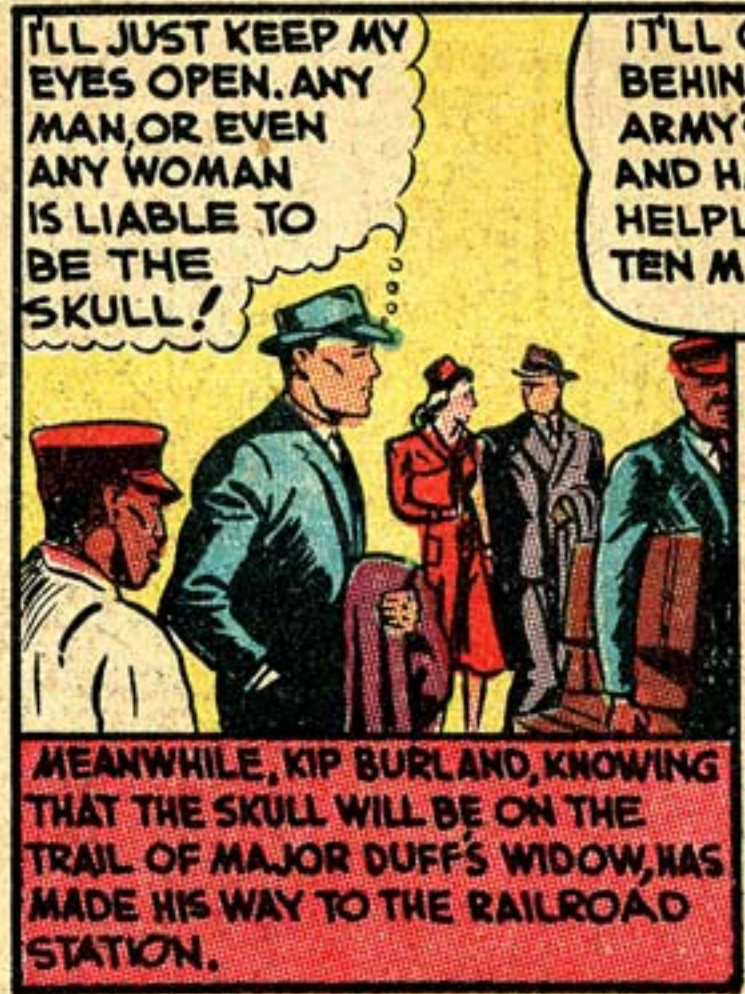
BARBARA!
LOOK OUT!

WH....
OH, UGH!



THOSE CARELESS PORTERS/ARE YOU HURT, BARBARA?

NO, I'M QUITE ALL RIGHT, JUST A LITTLE SHAKEN UP. LUCKILY THAT TRUNK GLANCED OFF OF MY HEAD!



I'LL JUST KEEP MY EYES OPEN. ANY MAN, OR EVEN ANY WOMAN IS LIABLE TO BE THE SKULL!

MEANWHILE, KIP BURLAND, KNOWING THAT THE SKULL WILL BE ON THE TRAIL OF MAJOR DUFF'S WIDOW, HAS MADE HIS WAY TO THE RAILROAD STATION.



IT'LL GET US BEHIND THE ARMY'S LINE, AND HAVE THEM HELPLESS IN TEN MINUTES!

IF IT WORKS!

HM, THESE BOYS SEEM TO BE UP TO SOMETHING. I'LL KEEP A WATCH OVER THEM!



SOUNDS LIKE BLITZ-KREIG!

THAT MUST BE OUR CALL IF ANYONE OVERHEARS OR CUTS IN ON THIS, WE'RE SUNK!

DON'T TALK SO LOUD!



YUH SAY IT'LL DISRUPT THE ARMY'S WHOLE PLAN OF ATTACK!

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE NAVY. WON'T THEY BE WISE TO IT, AND BE ABLE TO COUNTER IT!



OH, YOU'VE GOT SPECIAL PLANS TO GET THEM BEFORE THEY CAN EVEN GET MOVING. AIR ATTACK? OH, A FORWARD PASS FROM A TRIPLE WING-BACK FORMATION.....

FOOTBALL FANS, BAH!



THIS IS YO' CAR, SUH!

HOW DOES THE FORMATION BX WORK.

I'LL SHOW YOU LATER.



COULD YOU USE A BITE TO EAT?

I'M NOT VERY HUNGRY, BUT I WOULD LIKE A CUP OF COFFEE!



THE DINING CAR IS RATHER EMPTY, ISN'T IT?

YES, I NOTICED THAT NOT VERY MANY PEOPLE ARE TRAVELING TO WASHINGTON TODAY!



....AND IT WORKS FROM AN UNBALANCED LINE.... LOOK, I'LL SHOW YOU!

I'LL HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE!

I'LL HAVE THE SAME!



IS THERE ANY SUGAR ON THE TABLE!

NO. BUT THOSE MEN OVER THERE HAVE SOME!

...THEN THE GUARD COMES OUT OF THE LINE AND CROSSES IN FRONT OF THE NUMBER THREE BACK!

UH-HUH, AN' THEN WHAT DOES THE WING BACK DO?



PARDON ME, WOULD YOU MIND PASSING THE SUGAR?

SUGAR? OH, ER...HUM! HERE IT IS!

AND JUST WHEN I WAS BEGINNING TO CATCH ON TO THE BY FORMATION!

BOTHERING US FOR SUGAR! AT A TIME LIKE THIS!

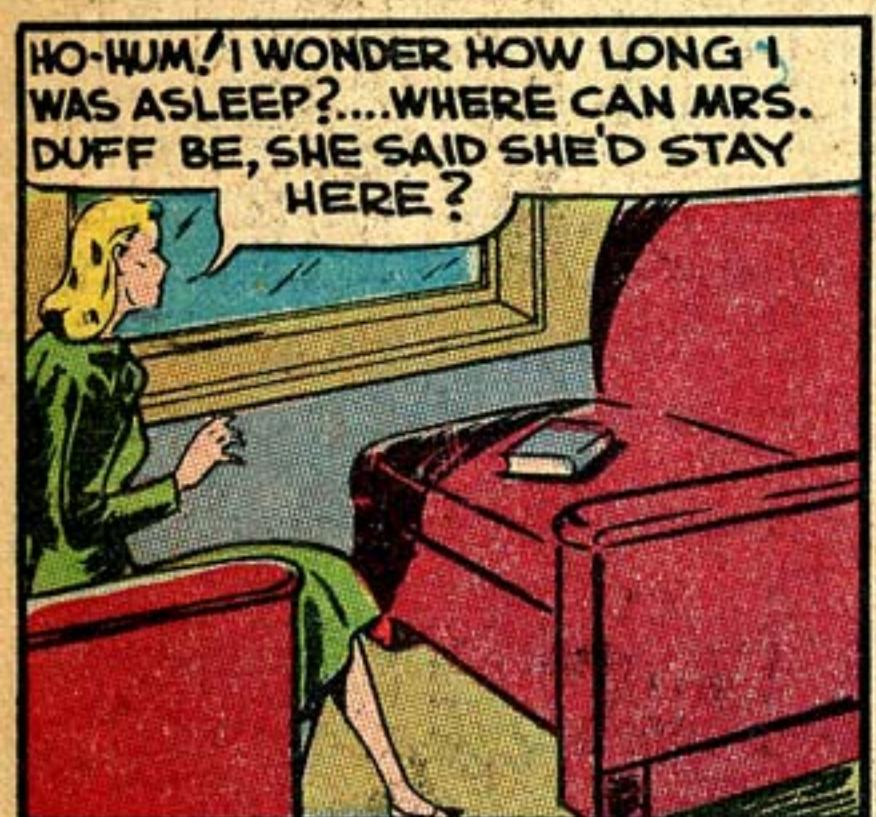


HERE WE ARE. I THINK I'LL TAKE A SHORT NAP. I'M STILL A LITTLE DIZZY FROM THAT BLOW ON THE HEAD!



THAT'S THE IDEA, JUST RELAX. I'LL STAY RIGHT HERE AND READ FOR A WHILE!

THE TRAIN SPEEDS ON THROUGH THE NIGHT!



HO-HUM! I WONDER HOW LONG I WAS ASLEEP?...WHERE CAN MRS. DUFF BE, SHE SAID SHE'D STAY HERE?



DID YOU SEE MY FRIEND, THE GREY HAIRED WOMAN IN THE BLACK SUIT?

FRIEND? YOU WERE ALONE WHEN YOU CAME ON THE TRAIN!



SHE MUST BE MISTAKEN!... PARDON ME, DID YOU SEE WHERE MY FRIEND WENT? THE GREY HAIRED WOMAN IN THE BLACK SUIT!

NO, I SAW NO ONE. YOU WERE ALONE!



WHAT IS THIS? EVERYONE IN THE CAR SAYS I WAS ALONE WHEN I CAME ON THE TRAIN. SOMETHING FUNNY IS GOING ON HERE! THE TRAIN HASN'T STOPPED SO SHE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN OFF. I'LL SEARCH THROUGH THE CARS UNTIL I FIND HER.



DID YOU HAPPEN TO NOTICE A WOMAN IN A BLACK MAN-TAILORED SUIT WALKING THROUGH THE TRAIN? I CAN'T SEEM TO ER...ER...

NOPE! CAN'T SAY THAT I DID!



BARBARA SUTTON. I HOPE SHE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE THAT I'M THE BLACK HOOD!

THERE'S SOMETHING AWFULLY FAMILIAR ABOUT HIM. I WONDER WHERE I KNOW HIM FROM?

YOU SAY YOU CAN'T FIND YOUR FRIEND, AND EVERYONE YOU SPEAK TO SAYS THEY NEVER SAW HER. THAT'S VERY PECULIAR.

SOUNDS LIKE THE SKULL HAS FOUND HER! AND HE HASN'T LOST ANY TIME IN STARTING TO WORK!



I SEEM TO REMEMBER HAVING SEEN YOU AND THE WOMAN YOU SPEAK OF, GETTING ON THE TRAIN IN NEW YORK CITY. CAN I HELP YOU TRY TO FIND HER?

OH, WOULD YOU? THAT'LL BE SWELL! AT LEAST YOU CAN PROVE THAT SHE'S ABOARD THE TRAIN... AND I'M NOT CRAZY!



OF COURSE YOU REMEMBER THE LADY, SHE AND THIS GIRL HAD COFFEE HERE BEFORE. YOU SERVED THEM BOTH!

NO SUH, AH SERVED THIS LADY, BUT SHE WAS ALONE. HERE'S HER CHECK. SEE, IT SAYS ONE CUP COFFEE. SHE WAS ALONE. AH'M SURE OF THAT!

BUT I WASN'T ALONE!



THOSE MEN! THEY MUST HAVE SEEN US. THEY WERE IN THE DINING CAR WHILE WE WERE!

LET'S ASK THEM!



HAVE YOU SEEN THE LADY WHO WAS AT THE TABLE WITH ME WHILE YOU WERE IN THE DINING CAR?

LADY? WE DIDN'T SEE ANY LADY, WE WERE TALKING ABOUT FOOTBALL!

SURE!



FOOTBALL! WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT ABOUT FOOTBALL!

WELL! IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FEEL ABOUT IT...



I GUESS YOU USED THE WRONG APPROACH WITH THEM! SAY... THE TRAIN FEELS LIKE IT'S SLOWING UP!

IT'S COMING TO A STOP! SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE. THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A NON-STOP EXPRESS TO WASHINGTON!



HOLD UP A MINUTE, BILL! WE GOT A HOSPITAL PATIENT GOING ABOARD YOUR TRAIN!

I THOUGHT IT WAS SOMETHING IMPORTANT, ELSE YOU WOULDN'T HAVE FLAGGED THIS TRAIN!



KEEP WATCHING, LET'S SEE IF ANYONE GETS OFF THIS TRAIN!

RIGHT! I'LL WATCH THE OTHER SIDE!



EASY! ANY JOLTING MAY PROVE FATAL!





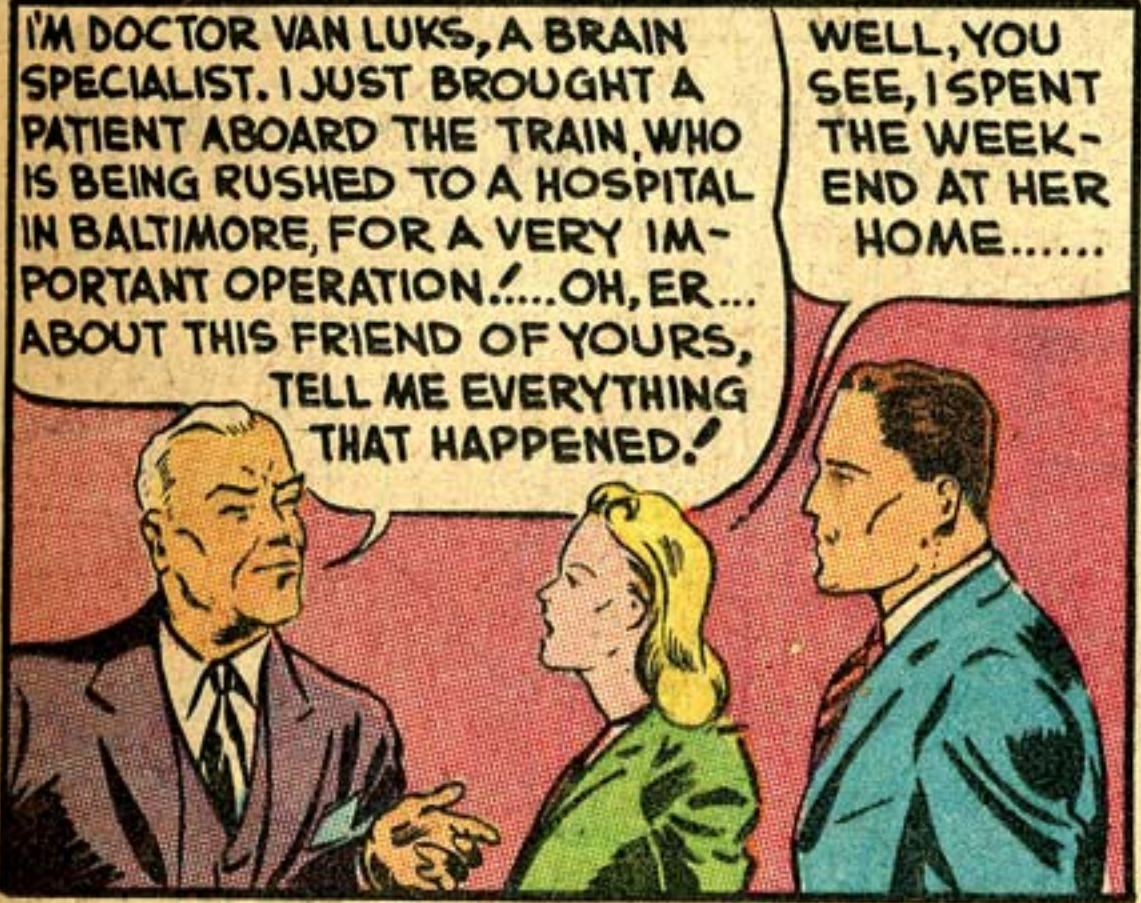
NO ONE GOT OFF THAT SIDE. ANYTHING HAPPEN HERE?

NO ONE GOT OFF, BUT A DOCTOR AND A PATIENT IN A STRETCHER GOT ON!



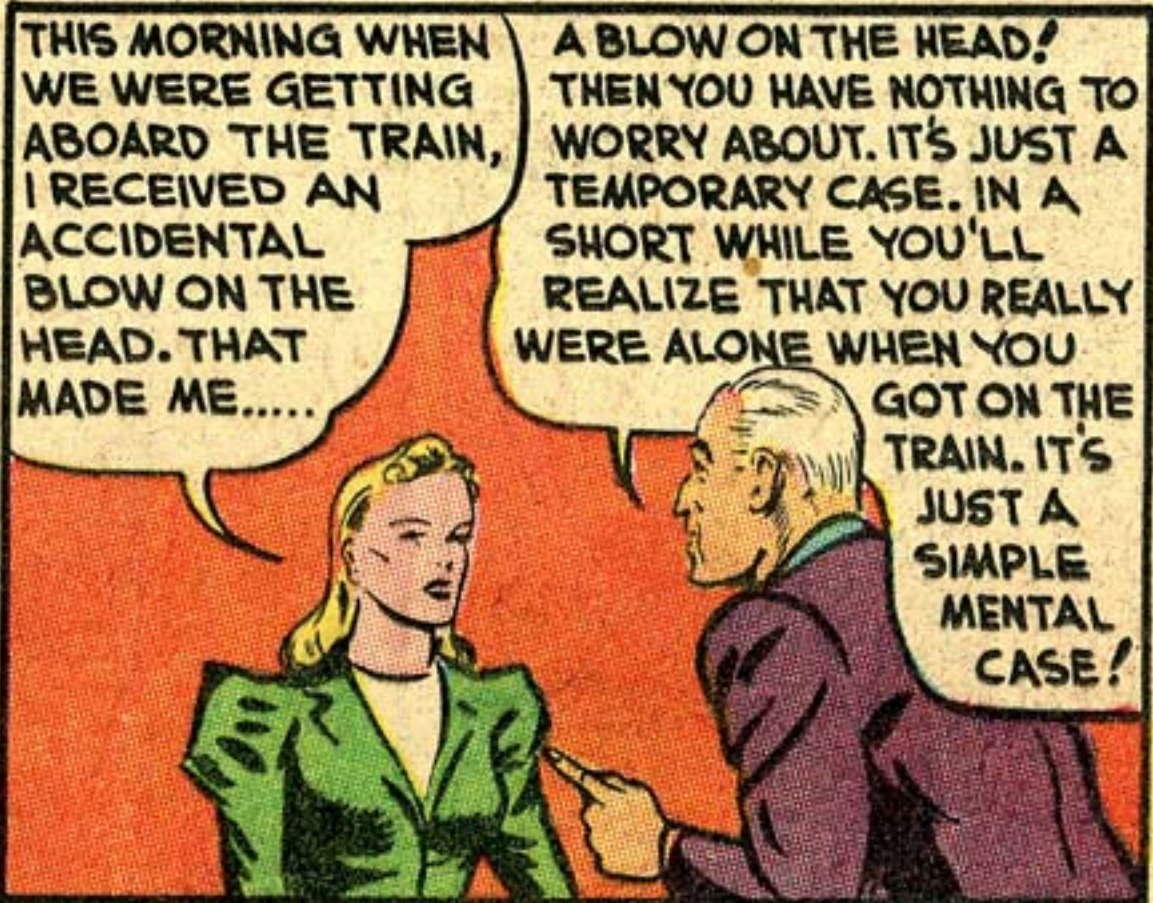
ARE YOU THE YOUNG LADY WHO IS LOOKING FOR HER FRIEND? SOME OF THE PEOPLE IN THE PULL-MAN CAR TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR CASE. VERY INTERESTING...VERY INTERESTING!

WHO ARE YOU?



I'M DOCTOR VAN LUKS, A BRAIN SPECIALIST. I JUST BROUGHT A PATIENT ABOARD THE TRAIN, WHO IS BEING RUSHED TO A HOSPITAL IN BALTIMORE, FOR A VERY IMPORTANT OPERATION!... OH, ER... ABOUT THIS FRIEND OF YOURS, TELL ME EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED!

WELL, YOU SEE, I SPENT THE WEEK-END AT HER HOME.....



THIS MORNING WHEN WE WERE GETTING ABOARD THE TRAIN, I RECEIVED AN ACCIDENTAL BLOW ON THE HEAD. THAT MADE ME.....

A BLOW ON THE HEAD! THEN YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. IT'S JUST A TEMPORARY CASE. IN A SHORT WHILE YOU'LL REALIZE THAT YOU REALLY WERE ALONE WHEN YOU GOT ON THE TRAIN. IT'S JUST A SIMPLE MENTAL CASE!



WELL, I GUESS THAT EXPLAINS IT SCIENTIFICALLY... BUT WE KNOW YOU WERE NOT ALONE! NOW WHAT?

MISS! MISS! THE LADY YOU WERE LOOKING FOR! SHE'S COME BACK!



BUT YOU SAID BEFORE, THERE WAS NO SUCH LADY!

YOU SAID A GREY HAired LADY, THAT'S WHY, ... BUT COME YOU'LL WANT TO SEE HER!



OH, MRS. DUFF, I WAS SO WORR..... THAT'S NOT MY FRIEND!



MAYBE I AM GOING CRAZY! MAYBE THERE IS NO MRS. DUFF!

EASY! GET HOLD OF YOURSELF!



IT'S SIMPLY THIS. YOUR FRIEND MUST HAVE WORN A SUIT SIMILIAR TO THE ONE THIS LADY IS WEARING. WHEN YOU RECEIVED THAT BLOW THIS MORNING YOUR MEMORY MADE YOU THINK SHE WAS YOUR FRIEND. JUST TAKE A NAP, AND YOU'LL SOON FORGET ALL ABOUT IT!

BUT !.....!

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT!



DRINK THAT DOWN, BARBARA. IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER!

LET'S GET BACK AND SEE IF THE PATIENT IS MRS. DUFF!

HERE'S YO' BRANDY, DOCTOR!

YOU'RE RIGHT, MISS SUTTON, FINISH YOUR DRINK, AND WE'LL GO RIGHT TO IT!

GOOD! LET'S GET MOVING!

WE MUST BE VERY CAREFUL WITH THE BANDAGES, THE PATIENT WAS VERY DANGEROUSLY INJURED... WHY... WHY... THIS LOOKS LIKE.....

IT IS! IT'S MRS. DUFF!

HOW COULD THIS HAVE HAPPENED?

YOU SEE! THAT BLOW ON THE HEAD HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT! I WAS RIGHT!

I'M AFRAID YOU WERE, BUT I'M STILL TAKING HER TO A HOSPITAL TO PERFORM A VERY DELICATE OPERATION, AND UNFORTUNATELY THE PATIENT WILL NOT RECOVER! AS FOR YOU...

YOUR KNOWLEDGE WILL PROVE YOUR DEATH! YOU WERE JUST A LITTLE TOO SMART, AND A LITTLE TOO PERSISTENT!

THE SKULL!

NOW GET INTO THAT ADJOINING COMPARTMENT, AND I MIGHT AS WELL INFORM YOU. THOSE DRINKS YOU JUST HAD CONTAINED ENOUGH STRYCHNINE TO KILL TEN HORSES!

Oh!

SHE WAS WEAK, THAT FINISHED HER. IT IS JUST A MATTER OF SECONDS NOW, UNTIL YOU JOIN HER, IN THE ETERNAL REST. FOOLS! YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO INTERFERE WITH THE SKULL!

FAREWELL MY FOOLISH FRIENDS. YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN FAR BETTER OFF IF YOU HAD HEEDED MY FIRST ADVICE.... TO SLEEP IT OFF!

AS THE DOOR CLOSES BEHIND THE SKULL!

YOU WERE JUST A LITTLE TOO FAST, MISTER SKULL.... BARBARA FAINTED.... AND I JUST PLAYED POSSUM! NOW TO GET TO WORK!

THE SKULL HAS SHOWED HIS HAND, SO IT'S TIME FOR ME TO SHOW MINE, AS THE **BLACK HOOD!** BUT FIRST I'VE GOT TO SHAKE BARBARA BACK TO CONSCIOUSNESS!



COME OUT OF IT, BARBARA! COME OUT OF IT! THE POISON HASN'T HAD ENOUGH TIME TO WORK YET, SO START EXERCISING AND KEEP ON EXERCISING. BY MOVING YOU CAN KEEP THE STRYCHNINE FROM TAKING EFFECT!



THE **BLACK HOOD!** YOU! WHERE DID YOU COME FROM? WHERE.....

SAVE YOUR QUESTIONS TILL LATER! RIGHT NOW I'VE GOT TO SAVE MRS. DUFF!



WOW! THIS IS DANGEROUS BUSINESS, BUT I CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES OF BEING SEEN IN THE CORRIDORS!

BOY! THAT WAS CLOSE!



NOT A SOUND OUT OF YOU, SISTER!



YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME.... SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR!

AH! THE PHONY MRS. DUFF! HOW NICE OF YOU TO COME AT JUST THE RIGHT MOMENT!



HEL---

I DIDN'T KNOW I WAS WORKING AGAINST THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. THAT KIND OF STUFF, I'LL HAVE NO PART OF... AND YOU CAN TELL THAT GUY AND DAME NOT TO WORRY. I DIDN'T PUT THE POISON IN THEIR DRINKS!

WH... WHERE AM I? WHO ARE YOU?

JUST TAKE IT EASY MRS. DUFF! EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT!

I THOUGHT THIS WAS JUST A RANSOM SNATCH..... THAT'S OKAY!

BARBARA!

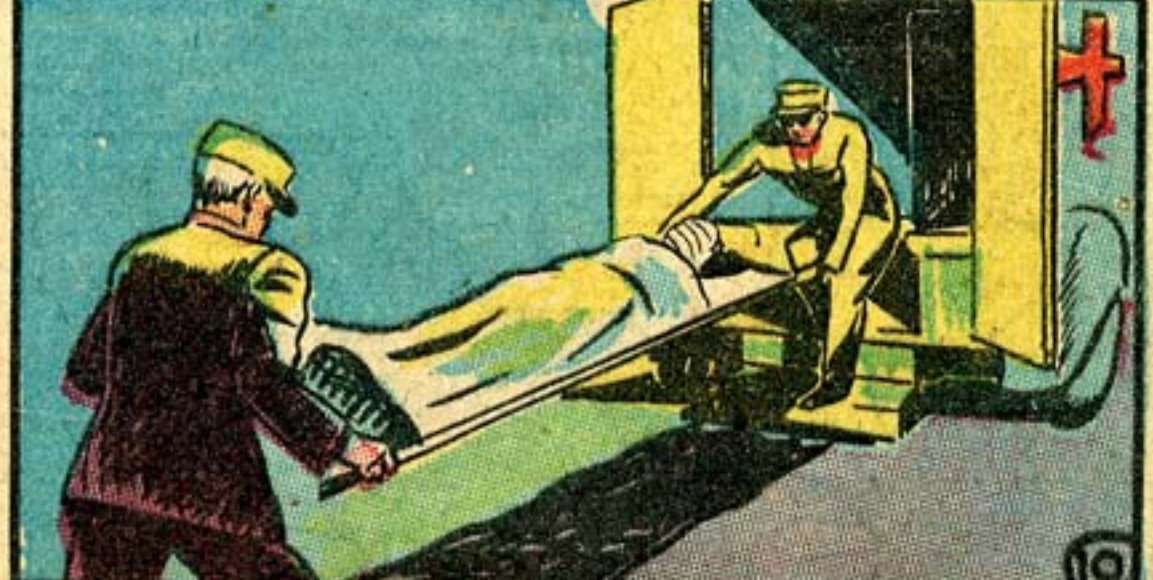
YOU CAN TAKE IT EASY NOW. YOU WEREN'T POISONED. ALL WE'VE GOT TO DO IS LAY LOW UNTIL WE PASS BALTIMORE AND THEN MRS. DUFF WILL BE SAFE!

MRS. DUFF!



GOSH! AM I TIRED!

A FEW MINUTES LATER THE PATIENT IS REMOVED FROM THE TRAIN IN THE BALTIMORE STATION!



THE PATIENT IS PLACED IN A WAITING AMBULANCE, WHERE THE SKULL REMOVES THE BANDAGES AND DISCOVERS...

IT'S NOT, MRS. DUFF! I'VE BEEN TRICKED! WELL, I'LL FIX THAT! TAKE A COUPLE OF AUTOMOBILES AND FOLLOW THE TRAIN!

OKAY, BOSS!



I NEED A CUP OF TEA TO STEADY MY NERVES!

EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT, NOW THAT THE BLACK HOOD IS ON THE JOB.

AH! SO MY VICTIMS ARE QUITE RECOVERED---AND VERY CONFIDENT TOO!... AND IN THE DINING CAR, ... HOW NICE!



BUT, UNFORTUNATELY FOR THEM THEY DON'T KNOW THAT THE SKULL HAS A TRICK OR TWO UP HIS SLEEVE! FIRST I'LL JUST UNCOUPLE THESE CARS! ALL I WANT IS THE ENGINE AND THE CAR THEY'RE IN!

SIMPLY THIS- IF I CAN'T TAKE MRS. DUFF FROM THE TRAIN- I'LL TAKE THE TRAIN FROM THE ENGINEER. REACH!



THE SKULL!



AND CONVENIENTLY ENOUGH THE DINING CAR IS DIRECTLY BEHIND!

A MOMENT LATER- TO THE CONSTERNATION OF PASSENGERS AND THE RAILROAD OFFICIALS, THE CARS PART.

A FEW MILES DOWN THE TRACK -----



THERE GOES THE BOSS! FOLLOW HIM!

THE TRAIN IS STOPPING AGAIN!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?



GOOD! HERE COME THE AUTOS WITH MY MEN!

TAKE IT EASY, FOLKS! EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT!



JUST A MOMENT, FOLKS!

WHAT'S THE REASON FOR THIS DELAY? WE'RE GOING TO THE PENN STATE-ARMY GAME AND IF WE'RE LATE, WE'LL MISS THE KICK-OFF!



THE RAILROAD COMPANY IS SORRY TO INCONVENIENCE YOU PEOPLE, BUT, IF YOU'LL JUST STEP OUT AND GET INTO THE WAITING AUTOMOBILES, YOU'LL BE DRIVEN BACK TO THE STATION!

WHY WERE THE REST OF THE CARS UNCOUPLED?

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES THAT MAKE? WE'LL BE LATE FOR THE GAME!



THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT IN THE STATION, THAT'S WHY THE TRAINS WERE UNCOUPLED— BUT IF YOU'LL JUST GET INTO THE AUTOMOBILES, YOU'LL-----



NO! NO! HE'S A MEMBER OF THE GANG!

I THINK WE'LL STAY HERE!

WHY'D YOU DO THAT? NOW WE'LL MISS THE KICK OFF!



YOU PEOPLE CAN STAY HERE IF YOU WANT TO, BUT WE'VE GOT TO SEE THAT GAME— SO WE'RE GOING!



THAT'S RIGHT!

THAT GUY MUST BE CRAZY! WALKING AROUND IN A MASQUERADE COSTUME, AND TALKING ABOUT KIDNAPPINGS AND KILLINGS!



SURE, HE'S NUTS!

HERE THEY COME! LET THEM HAVE IT!



HEY!

BANG

NOW, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT GETTING TO THE GAME?



MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, MISTER! WE'LL STAY HERE!

THEY'RE AFTER MRS. DUFF, AND THEY'LL KILL EVERYONE HERE TO GET HER! TAKE THE GUN FROM THAT FAKE CONDUCTOR AND HOLD THEM OFF WHILE I GO OUT AND TRY TO PILOT THE TRAIN BACK TO BALTIMORE.



OKAY—I'VE GOT A GUN, TOO!

HERE GOES! I HOPE BARBARA STAYS LOW, AND OUT OF TROUBLE!



OH! OH! THEY'VE GOT ME SPOT- TED!





I GOT ONE!

GOOD SHOOTING, PHINEAS!

STAY LOW, MRS. DUFF! YOU MUST NOT GET HURT.

GOOD THING I HAD A GAT, TOO!



STEP ON THE GAS! KEEP UP WITH THAT TRAIN!

I CAN'T BOSS! THIS CAR WON'T DO MORE THAN EIGHTY!



THERE'S A SWITCH AHEAD! WE'LL HAVE TO STOP AND WAIT FOR THE BLACK HOOD TO TRANSFER US ONTO THE RIGHT TRACK!

THEY'LL CATCH UP WITH US AGAIN IF WE HAVE TO WAIT FOR HIM TO DO IT--- BESIDES, I MIGHT AS WELL BE USEFUL!



I'LL GET THAT SWITCH!

BARBARA! YOU BRAVE LITTLE FOOL!



THEY'RE ON US AGAIN, I'VE GOT TO HURRY!



GO SH! THIS IS TOUGH! OH!--- GOOD! THERE IT GOES!



OKAY, BLACK HOOD! COME AHEAD!

GOOD WORK, BARBARA!

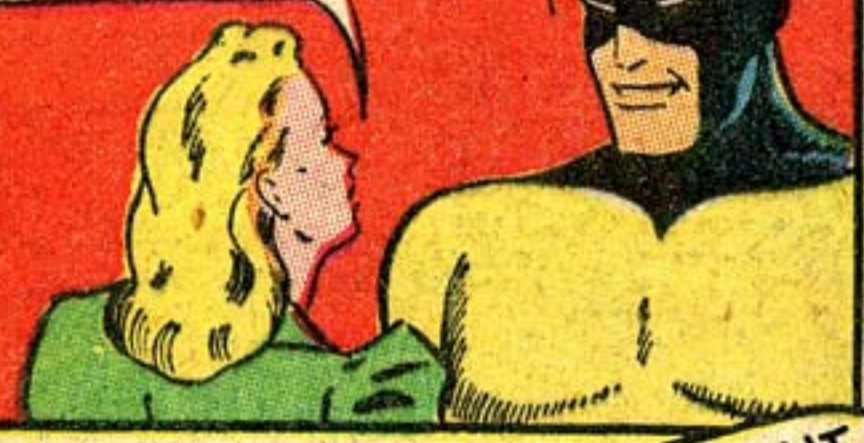


I WAS AFRAID WE WOULDN'T MAKE IT, IF WE HAD TO WAIT FOR YOU TO GET BACK TO THE ENGINE AFTER THROWING THE SWITCH!

COME ABOARD AND STAY LOW! WE'LL LOSE THEM FOR GOOD, IN JUST A MINUTE!

I GUESS WE'LL BE SAFE NOW, AND SO WILL MRS. DUFF'S PLANS FOR THE MAJOR'S INVENTION. BUT, WHO ARE YOU? AND WHEN WILL I SEE YOUR FACE?

EASY, BARBARA! DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S IMPOLITE TO ASK SO MANY QUESTIONS?



THERE'S NO SENSE CHASING THEM ANY FURTHER, THE STATION WILL BE FILLED WITH POLICE AND SOLDIERS.... LET THEM GO.... BUT I'LL MAKE THAT **BLACK HOOD** PAY A THOUSAND TIMES FOR THE FAILURE HE CAUSED ME TODAY!



IF WE HURRY, WE CAN STILL GET TO THE GAME!

READ ALL ABOUT IT—PENN STATE—ARMY GAME POSTPONED!



BUT HOW DID THE **SKULL** MANAGE THINGS AS HE DID?

POSTPONED! HOW COULD THEY DO THIS TO US?

LATER—THE **BLACK HOOD** ACCOMPANIES BARBARA AND MRS. DUFF INTO THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR!

HERE ARE MAJOR DUFF'S PLANS, WE HAD A LITTLE TROUBLE GETTING THEM HERE!

LITTLE TROUBLE! THEY'D NEVER BE HERE, AND NEITHER WOULD WE, IF IT WASN'T FOR HIM!



THE WAITER IN THE DINING CAR AND THE PEOPLE IN YOUR PULLMAN CAR WERE ALL MEMBERS OF HIS GANG. WHEN YOU FELL ASLEEP, MRS. DUFF WAS CAPTURED! THEN SHE AND THE FAKE PATIENT CHANGED PLACES. THE **SKULL** WAS GOING TO OBTAIN THE PLANS BY HYPNOSIS—AND THEN MRS. DUFF WAS TO BE KILLED—THANKS FOR YOUR HELP—AND GOODBYE!

I WONDER WHERE HE'S GONE AND WHO HE IS... WHY—HELLO! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

HELLO, MISS SUTTON! I GUESS I MUST HAVE FAINTED, WHEN THE **SKULL** TOLD ME I WAS POISONED!



BY THE WAY, CAN I SEE YOU SOMETIME, PERHAPS, TAKE YOU OUT DANCING, OR SOMETHING?

WELL, YOU CAN COME AROUND, BUT I'M PRACTICALLY ENGAGED—TO **THE BLACK HOOD!**

SO SHE'S PRACTICALLY ENGAGED TO THE **BLACK HOOD**—I'LL JUST SEE IF I CAN'T MAKE HER PREFER KIP BURLAND, TO THE **BLACK HOOD**—IT SHOULD BE FUN, BEING MY OWN RIVAL!

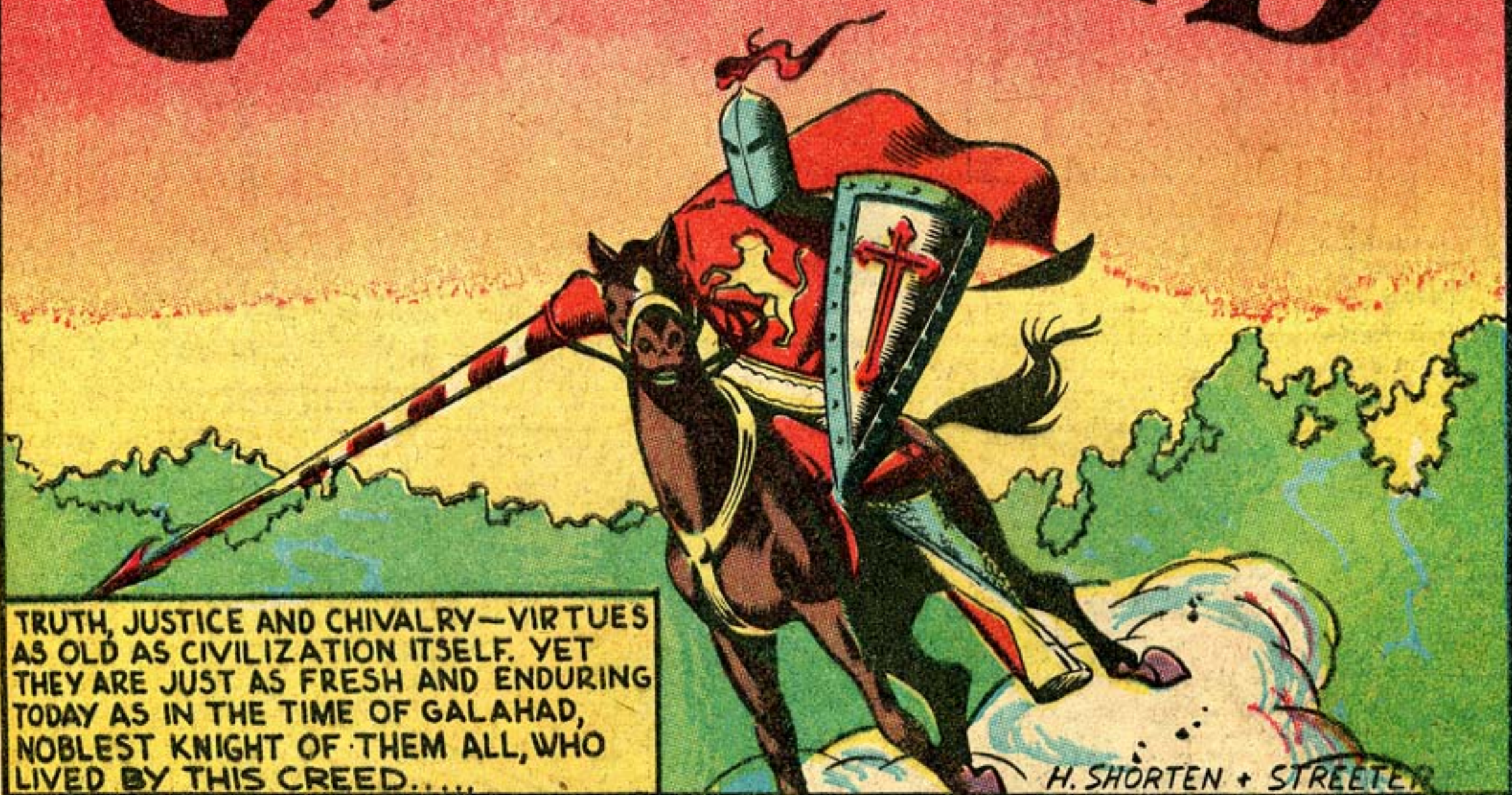
TWICE THE BLACK HOOD HAS DEFEATED ME—BUT, I'LL GET HIM YET, AND WHEN I DO.....



WHAT NEW PLOT DOES THE **SKULL** HAVE IN MIND? WHAT NEW DIABOLICAL SCHEME IS HE PLANNING? THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF **THE BLACK HOOD**
APPEAR IN **TOP NOTCH COMICS**



GALAHAD



TRUTH, JUSTICE AND CHIVALRY—VIRTUES AS OLD AS CIVILIZATION ITSELF. YET THEY ARE JUST AS FRESH AND ENDURING TODAY AS IN THE TIME OF GALAHAD, NOBLEST KNIGHT OF THEM ALL, WHO LIVED BY THIS CREED.....

GALAHAD AND HIS SQUIRE, IN SEARCH OF KNIGHTLY ADVENTURE, COME UPON A STRANGE SIGHT!

WHAT MADNESS IS THIS, GARLAN? A GATE WITH NO WALLS BESIDE IT!



THEY ENTER THE CITY!

MASTER! DO MY EYES DECEIVE ME, OR.....

NAY, GARLAN! I SEE THE SAME THING!



TELL ME, SIR! WHY DON'T YOUR HORSES DRAW THE CARTS AS IS CUSTOMARY?

IT IS THE LAW OF THE LAND! THE CART MUST GO BEFORE THE HORSE!



GALAHAD AND GARLAN PROCEED ON IN THE STRANGE CITY!

THIS ZANY LAND BODES WELL FOR KNIGHTLY ADVENTURES, GARLAN!

MASTER! LOOK!





THIS IS TOO MUCH! ATTACKING A HELPLESS OLD WOMAN! THEIR COWARDLY BLOOD SHALL TASTE MY STEEL!



CRAVEN CREATURES! DEATH IS TOO MERCIFUL FOR SUCH AS YOU!

BUT YOU DON'T.... OOF!

HELP!



HALT, BRAVE KNIGHT! DON'T PUNISH THEM! THEY WERE FORCED TO DO THIS!

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND, GOOD DAME!



IT IS OUR MAD KING, KAR-LYN, WHO OPPRESSES US WITH THESE TYRANNIES. HE HAS ORDERED THAT THE AGED AND INFIRM BE PUT TO DEATH BY THEIR OWN FAMILIES! YOU RISK YOUR OWN LIFE BY TRYING TO PREVENT IT!



AT THAT MOMENT!

MASTER! WE ARE BEING ATTACKED!



SO! IT'S A FIGHT YOU WANT, EH?



I HAVE NO HORSE OR SHIELD, BUT I STILL HAVE MY MAGIC SWORD!

UGH! THE MAN FIGHTS LIKE A DEVIL!



I MUST GO TO THE AID OF MY MASTER!



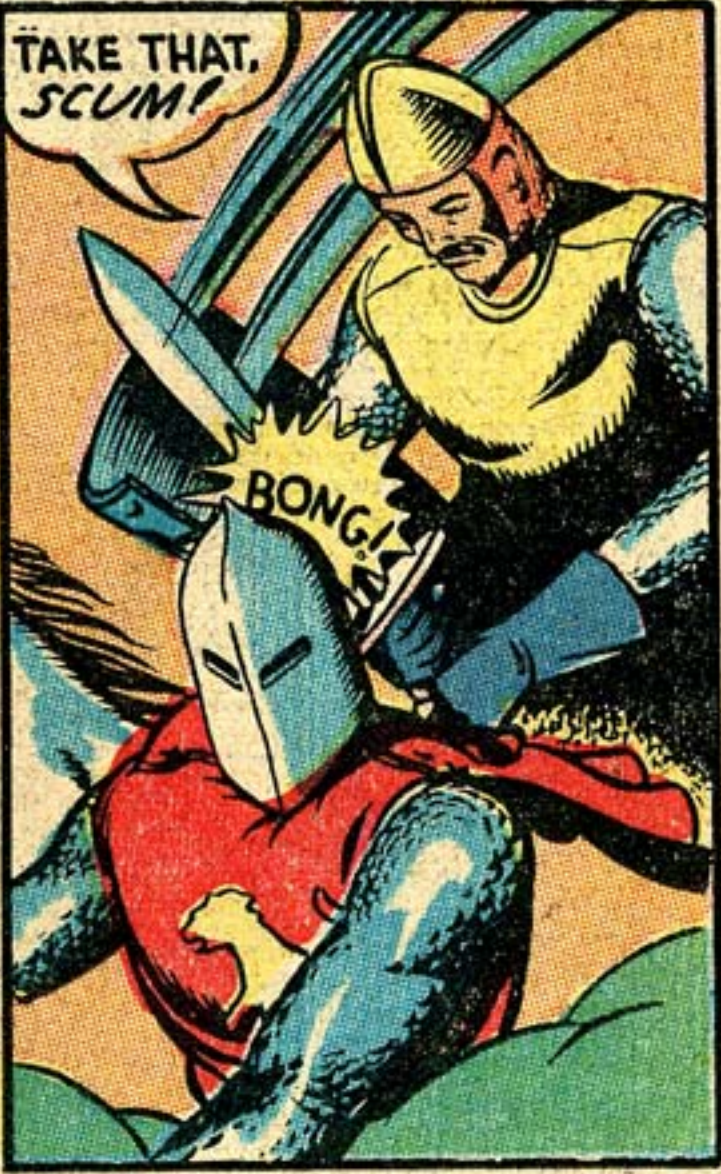
GARLAN! WATCH OUT!

MASTER! MASTER! HERE IS YOUR SHIELD! UGH!



THE KNIGHTS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GALAHAD'S DISTRACTION!

QUICK! SEIZE THAT ACCURSED SWORD!



TAKE THAT, SCUM!

BONG!



KILL HIM AT ONCE, I SAY!

NAY, WAIT! HE BEARS THE CREST OF KING ARTHUR! OUR KING MAY WISH TO SEE HIM!



GARLAN IS FORGOTTEN

THEY HAVE LEFT GALAHAD'S MAGIC SWORD. I KNOW HOW I MAY RESCUE MY MASTER!



LATER, AT THE MAD KING'S PALACE!

WHAT! YOU HAVE CAPTURED A KNIGHT OF THE ROUND TABLE?

YES, YOUR MAJESTY! WE CAUGHT HIM STIRRING REBELLION AMONGST OUR SUBJECTS!

SO! HEE, HEE! YOU WISH TO INTRODUCE KNIGHTLY COURTESY AND CHIVALRY IN MY DOMAIN, HEE, HEE!



I SHALL SHOW YOU HOW I TREAT THOSE WHO OPPOSE ME... MAKE MY CANARY SING! HEE, HEE!



NO! DON'T TORTURE ME!



I..... I'M BEING ROASTED ALIVE!



YOU MADMAN! I.....

YOU SHALL ALSO KNOW MY CLEVERNESS. TAKE HIM AWAY UNTIL I DEVISE A FITTING TORTURE!



HEE, HEE! I MUST INVENT A SPECIALLY CLEVER TORTURE! THEN I SHALL SEND HIS BODY BACK TO HIS ACCURSED KING ARTHUR WITH MY COMPLIMENTS!



GALAHAD'S FAITHFUL SQUIRE AT LAST LOCATES HIS MASTER'S CELL!

MASTER! MASTER! IT IS I, GARLAN!

FAITHFUL GARLAN! HE HAS RECOVERED MY MAGIC SWORD... BUT HOW...



MY MASTER WILL BE ABLE TO HAUL UP HIS SWORD WITH THIS ROPE, AND MAKE HIS ESCAPE!



HA! AND NOW!



A SLASHING BLOW, AND THE DOOR CRUMPLES LIKE PAPER BEFORE THE MAGIC SWORD.



BRING GALAHAD HERE! I HAVE CONCEIVED A CLEVER TORTURE, HEE! HEE!



HIS ZANY MAJESTY SHALL SEE ME SOONER THAN HE EXPECTS!

THIS PAST YEAR YOU HAVE BEEN ACTING VERY STRANGELY, YOUR MAJESTY. LIKE A DIFFERENT MAN... WHY DO YOU HIDE THE FACE OF THE POOR WRETCH WHOM YOU TORTURE?



SILENCE! NO ONE QUESTIONS KING KARLYN! I SHALL DISPOSE OF HIM AS I SEE FIT!

I HAVE DIFFERENT PLANS, MADMAN!



H.. HOW... WHA.. KNIGHTS! COME QUICK, GALAHAD! HAS ESCAPED!

THIS TIME YOU SHALL NOT CATCH ME UNAWARES!

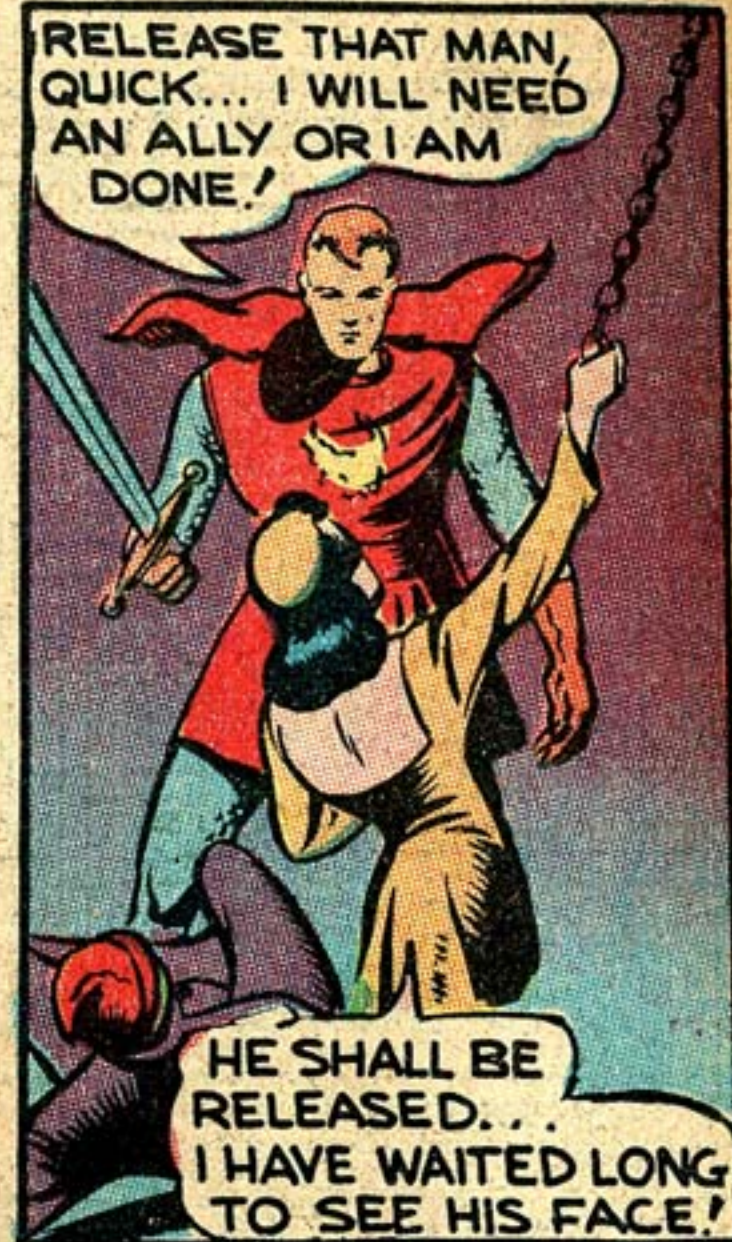




GALAHAD AND HIS INVINCIBLE SWORD PROVE TOO MUCH FOR KARLYN'S KNIGHTS!



MY MEN FALL LIKE CHAFF! I MUST SUMMON MORE HELP!!



RELEASE THAT MAN, QUICK... I WILL NEED AN ALLY OR I AM DONE!

HE SHALL BE RELEASED... I HAVE WAITED LONG TO SEE HIS FACE!



YOU SHALL SEE IT SOON!

UGH! WHAT A HORRID THING TO DO.. PERHAPS HIS FACE HAS WITHERED AWAY!



THE KING RETURNS WITH HIS HOSTS...

KILL HIM! DON'T LET HIM UNLOOSEN THAT MASK!

WHAT WEIRD MYSTERY LIES BEHIND THE IRON MASK?



TOO LATE, MY TREACHEROUS BROTHER! YOUR POWER IS AT END!

TWINS! I NEVER KNEW...

B... BUT WHICH IS WHICH??



I AM THE RIGHTFUL RULER. MY BROTHER WAS CONFINED BY OUR FATHER SINCE CHILDHOOD, SO THAT NONE MIGHT KNOW HE WAS INSANE!

WELL, MY KNIGHTLY MISSION HAS BEEN DONE... I MUST BE ON MY WAY!



THAT WAS A STRANGE EXPERIENCE, GARLAN! I WONDER WHAT WE WILL FIND NEXT?

I KNOW NOT, MASTER, BUT I AM WITH YOU!

GALAHAD'S SEARCH IS DESTINED TO BE MORE EXCITING THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE OF **TOP-NOTCH COMICS**

THE FIREFLY

"ENEMY OF CRIME"



HARLEY HUDSON



THE FIREFLY....GRIM AVENGER OF THE NIGHT, AND NEMESIS OF ALL CRIMELAND. LONG AGO, HARLEY HUDSON, BRILLIANT SCIENTIST, DISCOVERED THE SECRET OF THE STRENGTH OF INSECTS. BUT THE SCIENTIFIC PROOF OF HIS LIFE-WORK WAS DESTROYED BY GANGSTERS. IT WAS THEN THAT HE MADE THE RESOLVE TO USE HIS NEW-GAINED KNOWLEDGE IN THE EXTERMINATION OF THE VERMIN OF SOCIETY, AND BECAME...
..... THE FIREFLY!

By BOB WOOD

IN THE HOME OF MORTIMER BIRD, ECCENTRIC MILLIONAIRE!

HEH, HEH! THEY THINK THEY HAVE OUTWITTED ME, AND I'LL DIE BEFORE THEY WILL. BUT I'LL FOOL THEM, I'LL FOOL THEM!

HUSH, MR. BIRD. REMEMBER YOUR HEART!



A LITTLE LATER...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM TOMORROW, OR MY NAME AIN'T SNEAKY!



NEXT DAY IN CENTRAL PARK!

WHAT A GORGEOUS DAY! GOOD THING I DRAGGED YOU AWAY FROM THAT NEWSPAPER OFFICE OF YOURS, JOAN!

YES, HARLEY. AND YOU WORK TOO HARD IN THAT CHEMISTRY LAB OF YOURS!





SAY, LOOK AT THOSE BIRDS! THEY SEEM TO BE SCARED!

THAT'S FUNNY! AND THEY'RE TAME, TOO!



MEANWHILE, AT A NEAR-BY BENCH!

WAR NEWS, WAR NEWS. AND EVERYTHING SO PEACEFUL HERE!



SUDDENLY, A HORDE OF BIRDS SWOOP DOWN UPON THE MAN!

WHAT'S THIS?



GOOD LORD, JOAN, LOOK! THOSE BIRDS... THEY'RE FLOCKING FROM ALL DIRECTIONS... AND ATTACKING THAT MAN!



IT'S INCREDIBLE! THOSE BIRDS HAVE GONE WILD! THEY'LL KILL THAT MAN!

HELP... HEL... ARRHH



HIS FACE! IT'S TORN TO SHREDS!

HE'S... DEAD! THIS CARD SAYS HE'S JOHN ROBIN, SCIENTIST!



AN AMBULANCE SOON ARRIVES!

ANOTHER ONE! HOLY CATS! THE BIRDS MUST BE GOING CRAZY THESE DAYS!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, ANOTHER ONE!



DOCTOR SPARROW IN OUR HOSPITAL WAS ATTACKED BY BIRDS JUST A WHILE AGO. HE'S DEAD!



THERE'S A STORY BEHIND THESE DEATHS, HARLEY!

WE MIGHT GET SOME INFORMATION AT THE HOSPITAL! LET'S GO!



AT THE HOSPITAL!

WHAT! A GUY NAMED ROBIN ALSO PECKED TO DEATH! WHAT IS THIS? A WAR OF THE BIRDS?

JOHN ROBIN ALSO KILLED! THAT MEANS I'M NEXT!



WHAT'S UP, HANRAHAN?

OH, IT'S YOU. YOU REPORTERS CAN SMELL A DEAD BODY QUICKER THAN A VULTURE!

A REPORTER! YOU CAN HELP ME! TELL THE WORLD ABOUT THAT OLD FIEND, MORTIMER BIRD!



I'M HENRY FALCON, A SCIENTIST! IT WAS MORTIMER BIRD'S CRAZY IDEA TO BIND US SCIENTISTS WITH THE NAMES OF BIRDS TOGETHER IN A COMMON WILL. IF ANY ONE OF US DIED, HIS MONEY WAS TO BE TURNED OVER TO THE SURVIVORS!



HE SAID HE WAS DOING IT BECAUSE HE WAS SURE THE MONEY WOULD BE SPENT BY ANY OF US FOR SCIENCE. NOW I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT, AND.....

IT CERTAINLY SOUNDS WEIRD!



BUT, UNSEEN, HARLEY DOES A STRANGE THING!

THEY'LL NEVER MISS A PIECE OF JOHN ROBIN'S TATTERED SUIT!



I DON'T THINK I'LL BE MUCH HELP! SO LONG, JOAN!

GOODBYE, HARLEY!



HARLEY PROCEEDS IMMEDIATELY TO HIS LAB, AND CONDUCTS A STRANGE EXPERIMENT.....

I KNEW THAT POWDER THAT WAS ON BOTH DEAD MEN MEANT SOMETHING!



I'LL CALL UP JOAN AND GIVE HER A STORY THAT'LL BURN HER EARS OFF!



THIS POWDER WHICH I AM ABOUT TO SPRINKLE ON YOU ACTS ON BIRDS LIKE SUPER-CATNIP ON CATS! THEY GO CRAZY FOR IT AND CHEW UP ANYTHING AND ANYBODY THAT'S GOT IT ON!



YOU'LL MAKE A NICE MEAL FOR THESE HAWKS! HAW, HAW!

JOAN IS HOISTED UP THE FLAGPOLE!



JUST THEN.....

I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT!



THE FIREFLY!



IN PERSON! AND HERE'S MY CALLING CARD!

OW!



AND HERE'S SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU REMEMBER THE FIREFLY FOR A LONG TIME!



IN THE ENSUING SCUFFLE THE HAWKS' CAGE IS BROKEN OPEN.

AHHH!



GREAT GHOSTS! THEY'RE MAKING FOR JOAN!



I'VE GOT TO GET TO JOAN BEFORE THOSE CRAZED HAWKS CAN HARM HER!

A DARING LEAP THROUGH THE AIR CARRIES THE FIREFLY TOWARD JOAN!



THE FIREFLY REACHES JOAN A SPLIT SECOND BEFORE THE HAWKS!

THEY'RE WILD WITH FURY!

AAAAAK!

AAAAAK!



THE FIREFLY FINALLY DRIVES THE LAST HAWK OFF!

WHEW! THAT WAS THE WEIRDEST BATTLE I EVER EXPECT TO HAVE!



FIREFLY, LOOK! THEY'RE ESCAPING!

LET 'EM GO! THE POLICE'LL CATCH UP WITH THEM. THEY'RE NOT THE REAL MURDERERS, ANYWAY. WE'VE GOT TO GET TO MORTIMER BIRD!



HEH, HEH! JOHN SPARROW AND JOHN ROBIN KILLED BY BIRDS! POETIC JUSTICE, ISN'T IT? AND THEY THOUGHT THEY COULD OUT-LIVE MORTIMER BIRD!

TAKE THIS POWDER AND GO TO SLEEP MR. BIRD!



AGAIN - THE FIREFLY...

DON'T TAKE THAT POWDER, MR. BIRD!



THE ATTENDANT STAGES A SURPRISE ATTACK!

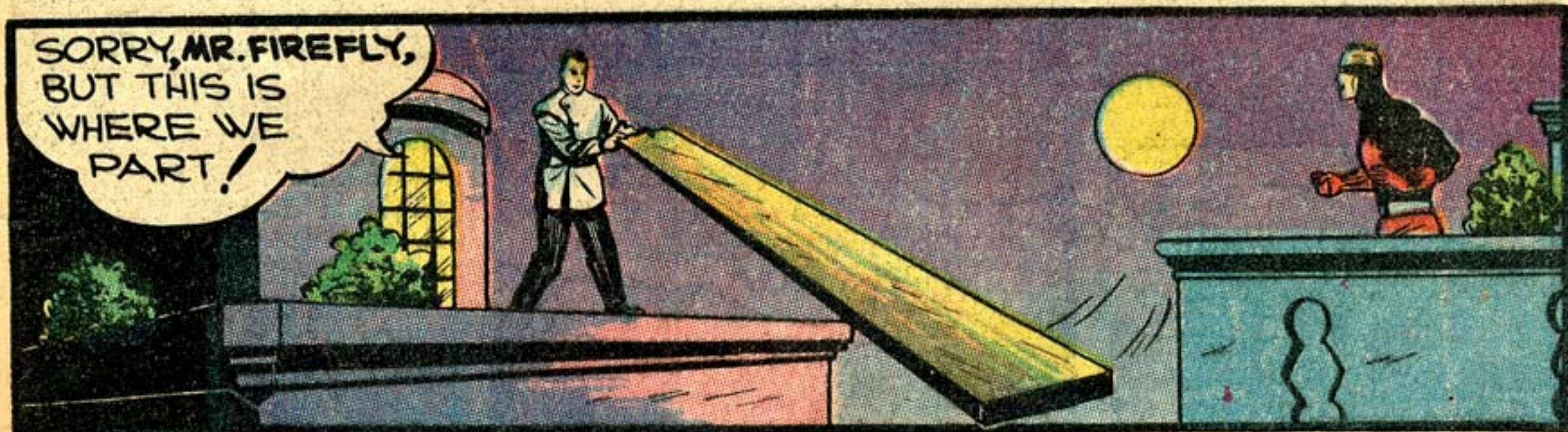
TAKE THAT, YOU MEDDLING FOOL!



THAT MAN'S NOT YOUR REAL ATTENDANT, MR BIRD! HE'S THE MURDERER! HE SHAN'T ESCAPE!

M.... MY HEART!





BUT THE FUGITIVE HAS NOT RECKONED WITH THE INSECT-LIKE POWERS OF THE FIREFLY!



SUDDENLY THE ATTENDANT IS STARTLED BY A STRANGE SOUND..... THE WHIRRING OF WINGS.

THE POWDER. I'VE STILL GOT IT.....!



BUT TOO LATE! THE HAWKS HAVE CAUGHT THE SCENT!

GET AWAY FROM ME!



GREAT SCOT! HE'S LOST HIS BALANCE!

AAAAAK

AAAAIEEEEE



THE MADDENED HAWKS PECK AT THE DISGUISE ON THE CORPSE'S FACE AND REVEAL.....

JUST AS I THOUGHT. IT'S HENRY FALCON!



BACK IN MORTIMER BIRD'S ROOM!

WHY... HE'S DEAD!

YES, THE SHOCK WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIS AILING HEART. HE TRIED TO TELL ME SOMETHING BEFORE HE DIED!



THEN HE SUSPECTED FALCON TOO. THAT POWDER WAS A RARE DRUG FROM BRITISH GUIANA. I DISCOVERED THAT FALCON WAS A NATURALIST, AND HAD JUST RETURNED FROM THERE. SO I KNEW HE WAS BEHIND THE WHOLE THING!



FALCON HIRED SNEAKY TO DO HIS DIRTY WORK, TO SPRINKLE THE POWDER ON EVERYBODY ELSE INVOLVED IN THE WILL!



NATURALLY, MORTIMER BIRD WOULD BE LAST TO BE KILLED, AND THEN ONLY HENRY FALCON WOULD BE LEFT TO INHERIT THE MONEY!

THE FIEND!



OLD MORTIMER REALLY HAD THE INTERESTS OF SCIENCE AT HEART!

WE SHAN'T FAIL HIM! WE'LL SEE THAT HIS MONEY GOES TO SCIENCE AFTER ALL.

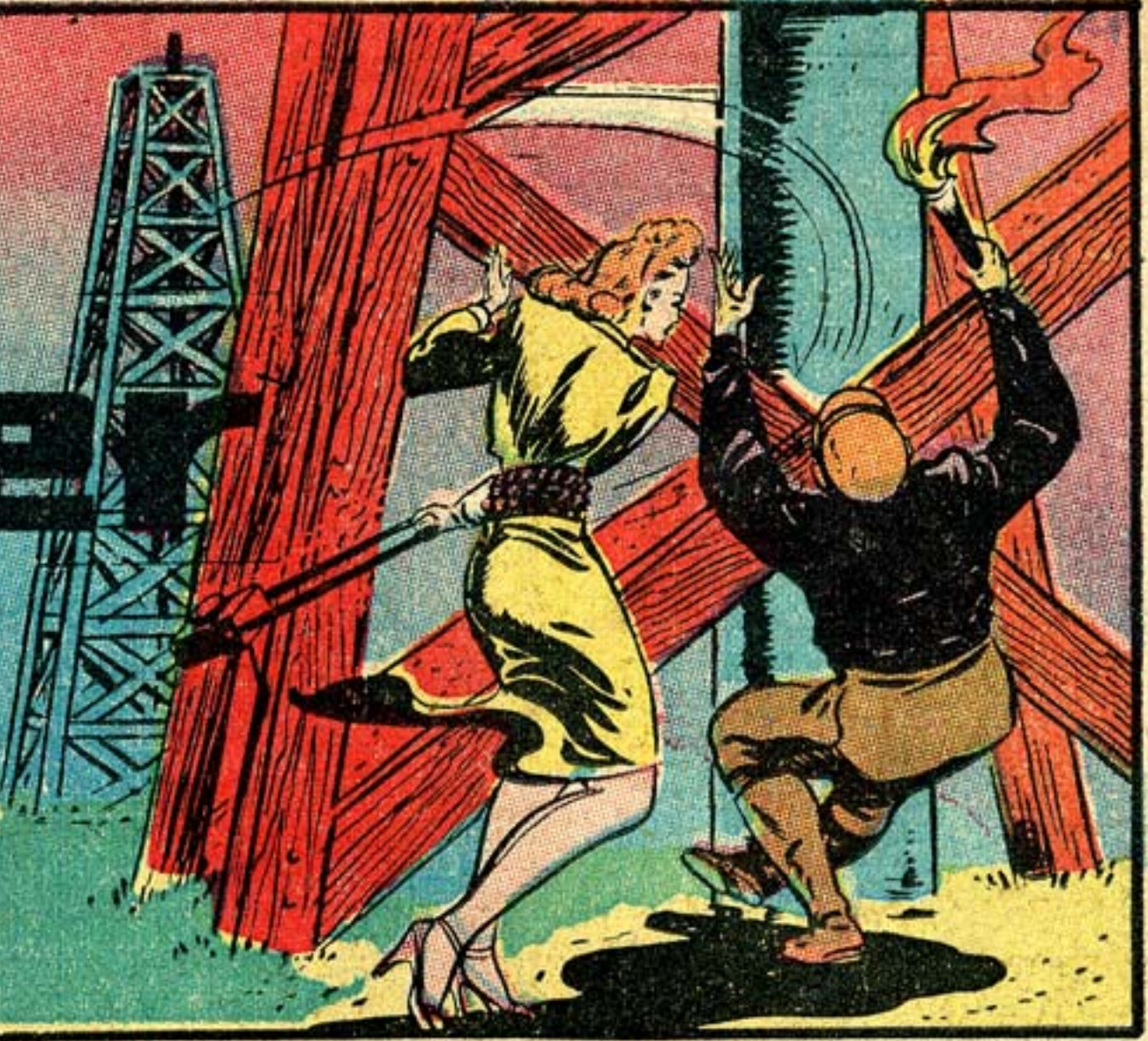


THE FIREFLY UNRAVELS ANOTHER WEIRD CRIME IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF TOP-NOTCH COMICS DON'T MISS IT!

Fran Frazer

FRAN FRAZER, GIRL PHOTOGRAPHER, HAS FACED MANY WEIRD ADVENTURES IN FOREIGN LANDS, AND ALWAYS SHE HAS PROVEN THAT, IN SPITE OF HER SEX, SHE IS A BETTER MAN THAN ANY OF HER MALE RIVALS...

by IRVING NOVICK and HARVEY A. BIERN



LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE IN THE BALKANS. GRAB A PLANE FOR MURANIA AND GET ME A PICTURE INTERVIEW WITH KING FAROL

O.K. CHIEF



IN THE LONDON OFFICE OF STRIFE MAGAZINE, FRAN FRAZER RECEIVES NEW ORDERS

HAL DAVIS, FRAN'S RIVAL, LEARNS OF HER DESTINATION

STRIFE MAGAZINE



ER--HELLO, HAL! TAKING A TRIP?

HELLO, FRAN! WHY, YES, I'M GOING TO MURANIA FOR--ER, MY HEALTH!



SEVERAL HOURS LATER, IN MURANIA...

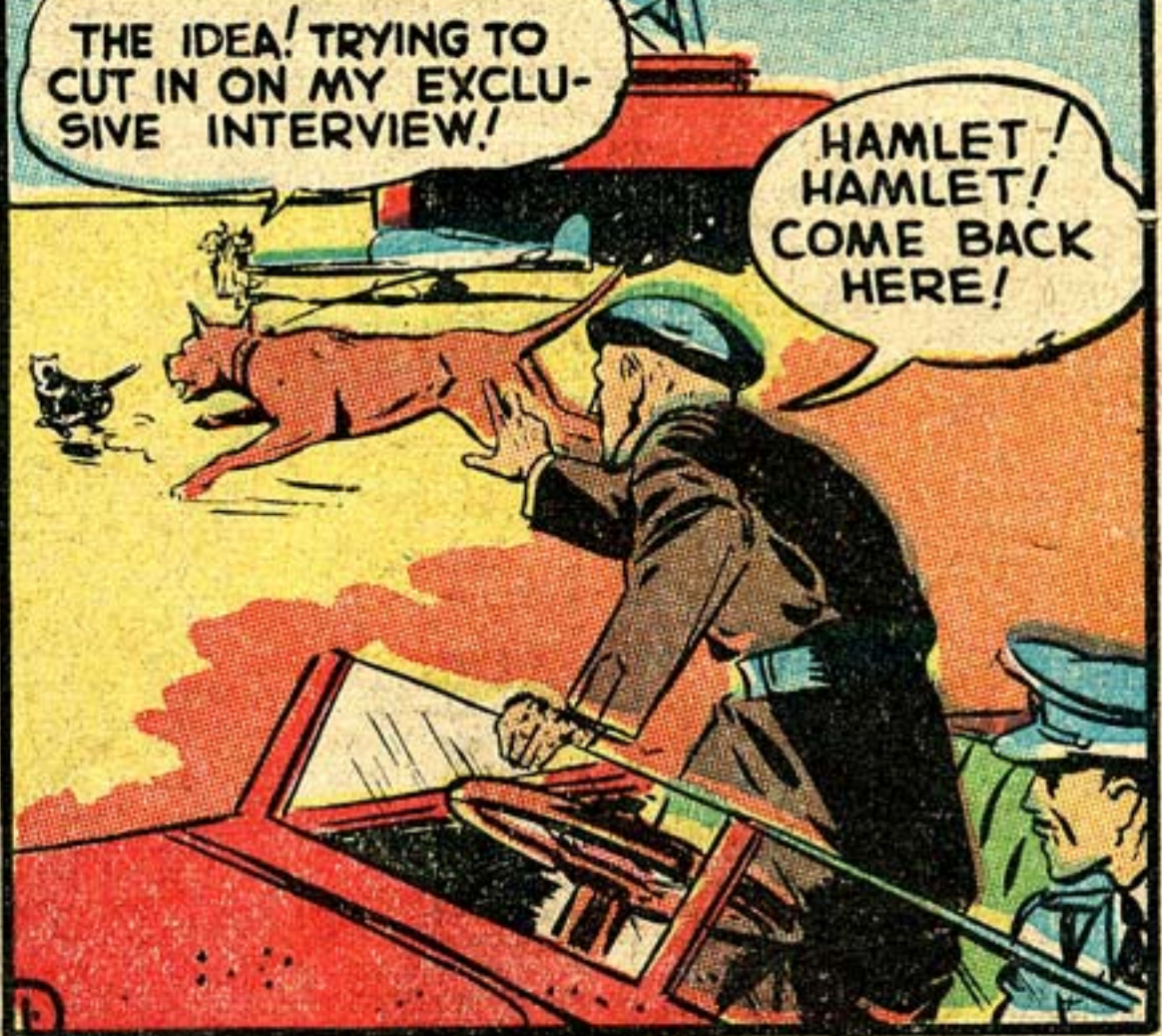
HAL DAVIS, I'LL NEVER SPEAK TO YOU AGAIN!

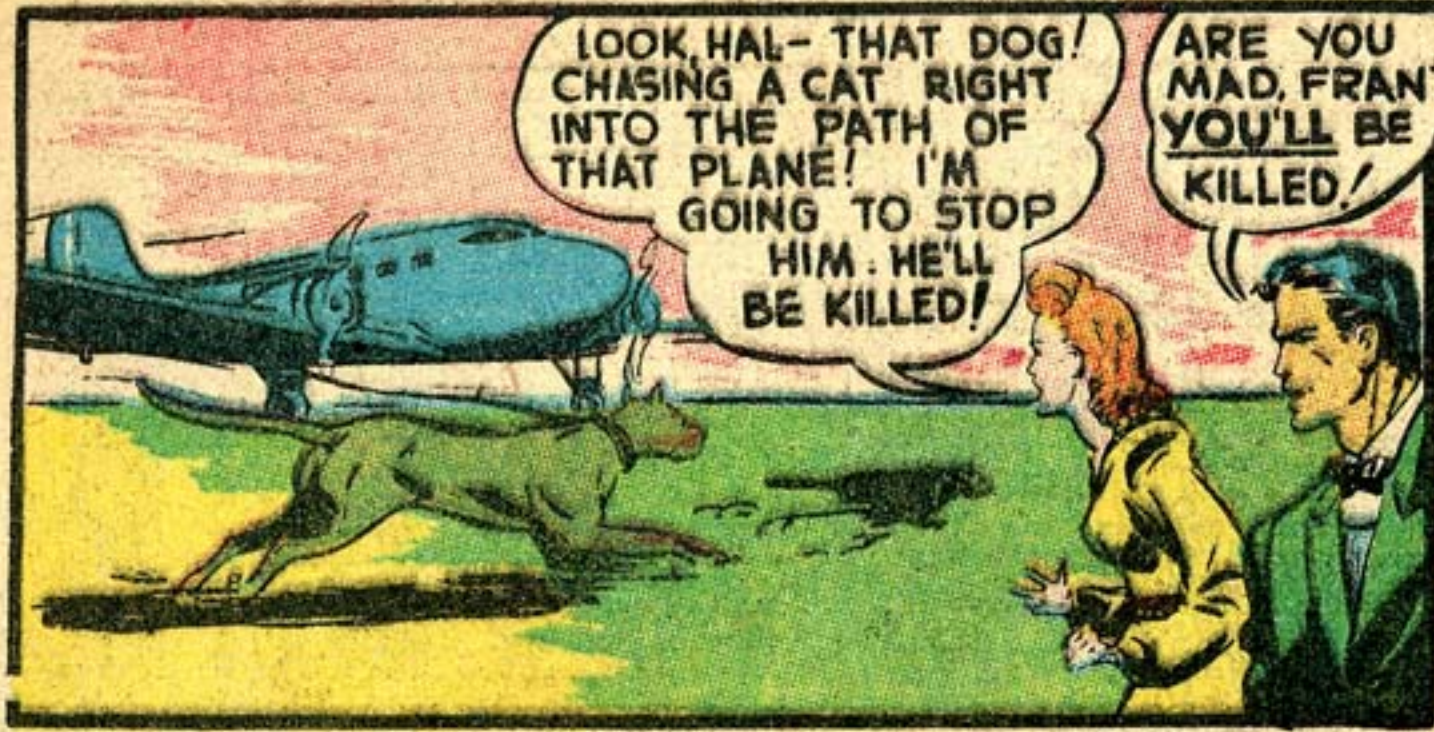
AW, HONEY, HAVE A HEART! I HAD TO FOLLOW YOU. IT'S MY JOB!



THE IDEA! TRYING TO CUT IN ON MY EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW!

HAMLET! HAMLET! COME BACK HERE!





LOOK, HAL - THAT DOG!
CHASING A CAT RIGHT
INTO THE PATH OF
THAT PLANE! I'M
GOING TO STOP
HIM. HE'LL
BE KILLED!

ARE YOU
MAD, FRAN?
YOU'LL BE
KILLED!



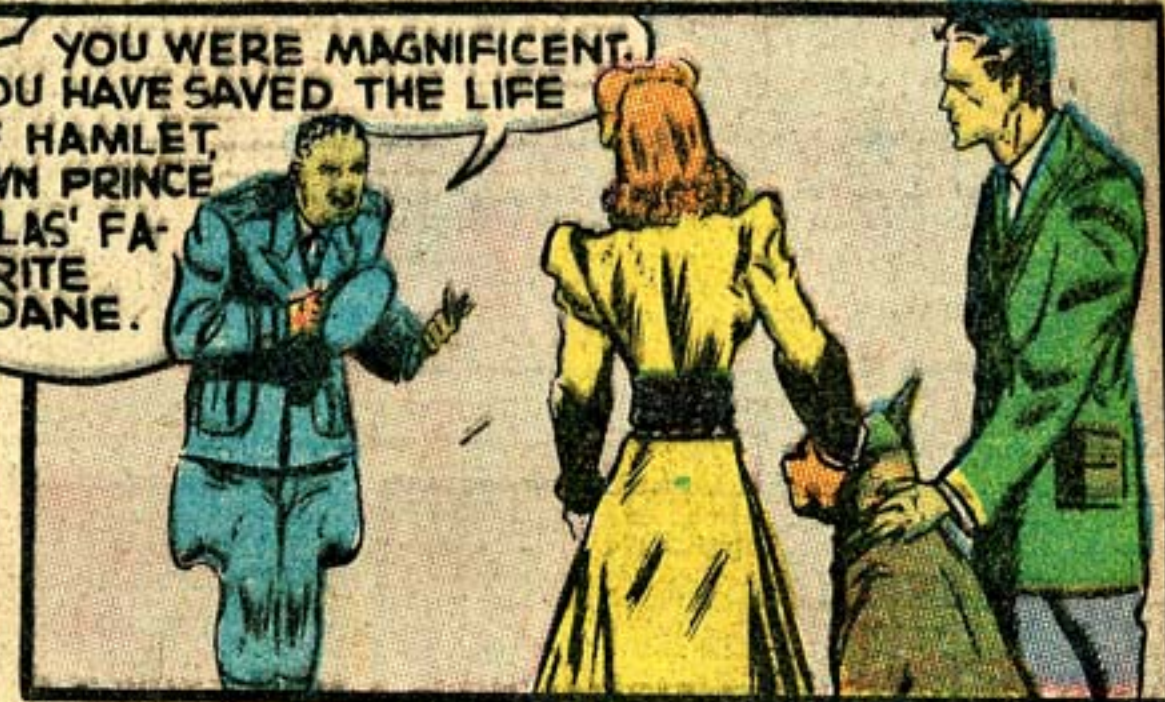
GOT
HIM!



WHAT A
PICTURE!

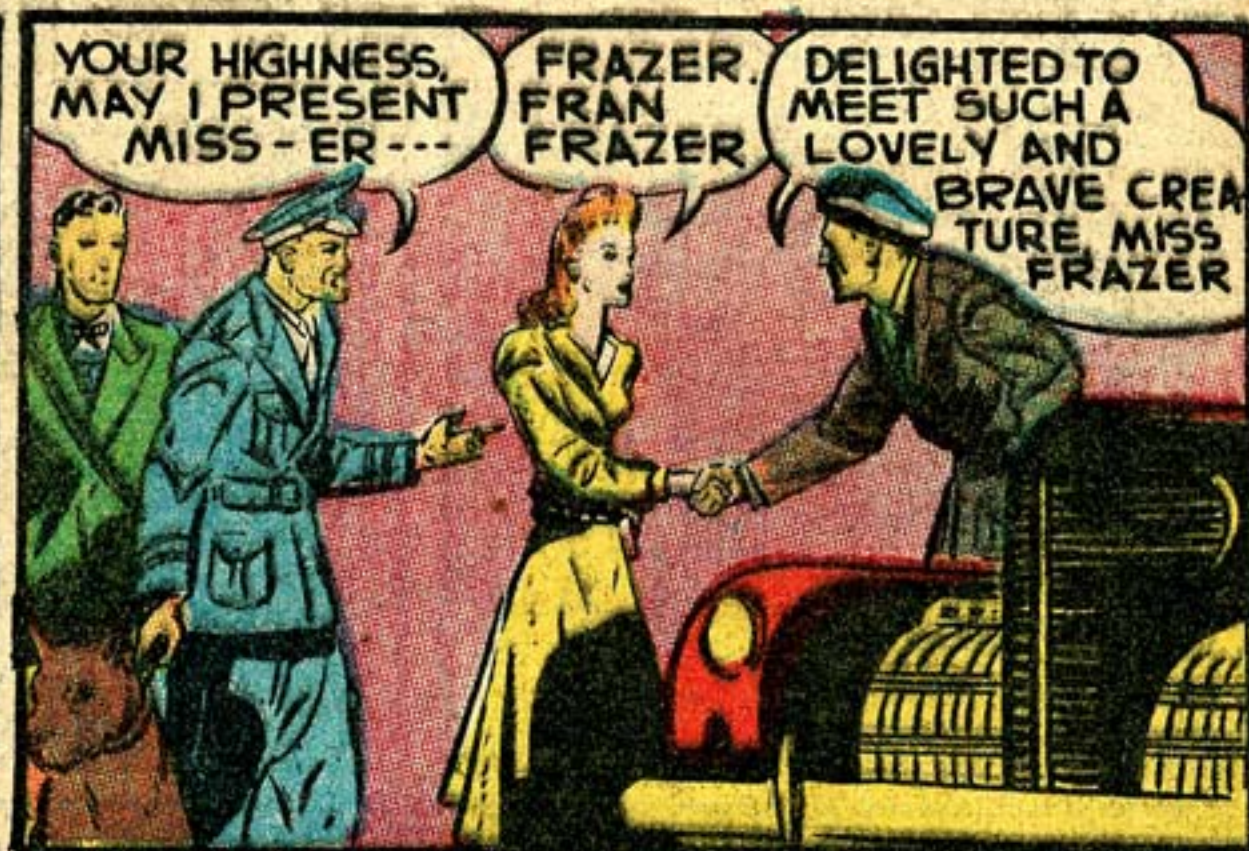
WHAT
A RUN!

YOU WERE MAGNIFICENT!
YOU HAVE SAVED THE LIFE
OF HAMLET,
CROWN PRINCE
MIKLAS' FA-
VORITE
DANE.



THE CROWN PRINCE'S
DOG? WHAT A BREAK!
WHERE IS THE PRINCE?

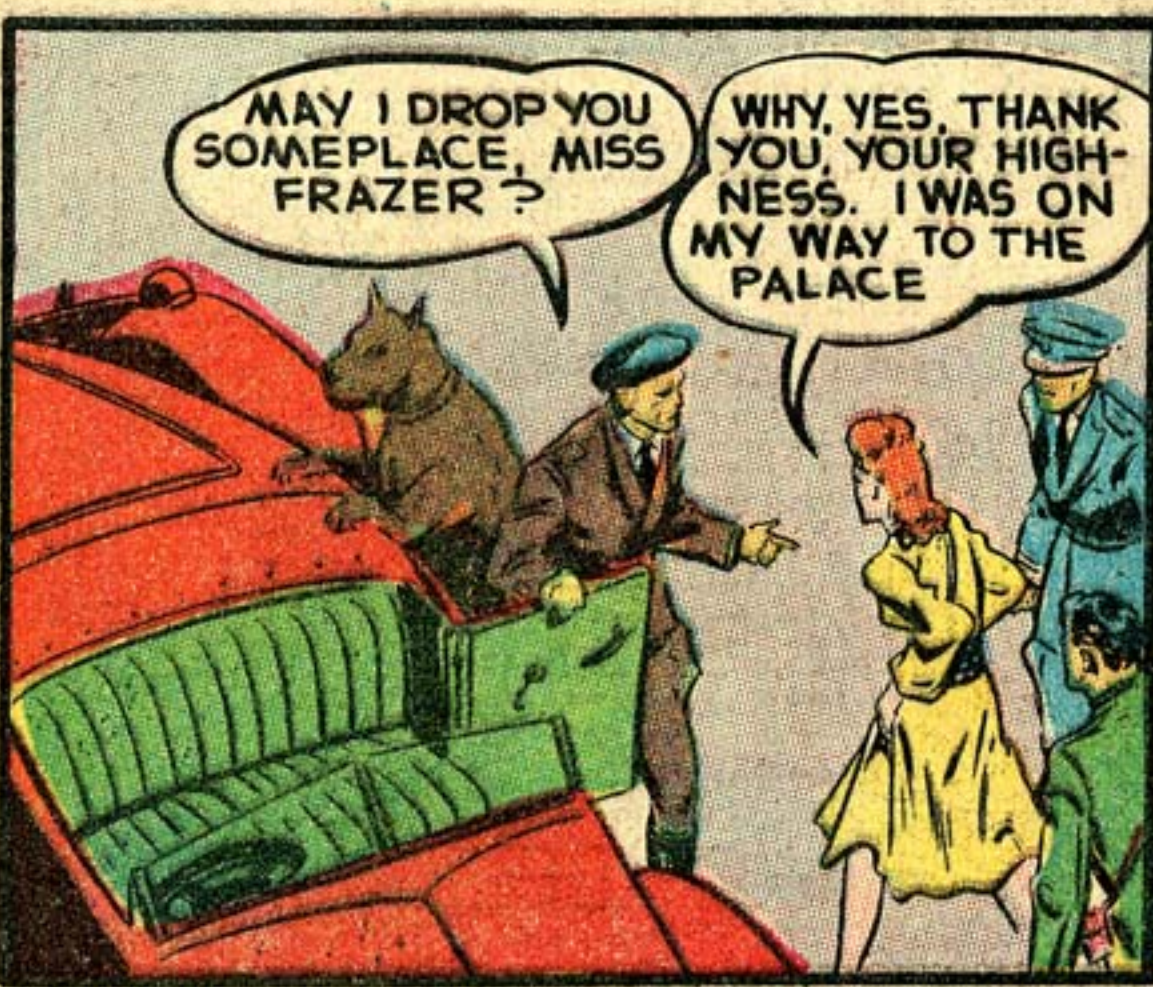
IN HIS CAR.
COME, I'LL
TAKE YOU
TO HIM



YOUR HIGHNESS,
MAY I PRESENT
MISS - ER - -

FRAZER.
FRAN
FRAZER

DELIGHTED TO
MEET SUCH A
LOVELY AND
BRAVE CREA-
TURE MISS
FRAZER



MAY I DROP YOU
SOMEPLACE, MISS
FRAZER?

WHY, YES, THANK
YOU, YOUR HIGH-
NESS. I WAS ON
MY WAY TO THE
PALACE



TA-TA,
HAL!

DARN IT, I AL-
WAYS GET THE
DIRTY END OF
IT!

SO YOU SEE, MISS FRAZER, MADAME MUPESCU HAS MUCH INFLUENCE WITH MY FATHER.



AT THE PALACE, PRINCE MIKLAS CONFIDES IN FRAN.

POSITIVE, BUT I HAVEN'T ANY DEFINITE PROOF.



H'M-- I I THINK I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP. MAY I SEE YOUR FATHER?

IN KING FAROL'S THRONE ROOM

WATCH THE BIRDIE, YOUR MAJESTY!

YOU ARE A VERY CLEVER GIRL, MISS FRAZER. ISN'T SHE, MADAME MUPESCU?



YES, VERY CLEVER



TOO CLEVER FOR HER OWN GOOD

AT THE HOME OF COUNT CODRENU, LEADER OF THE STEEL GUARD!



HAVE NO FEARS.. THE STEEL GUARD WILL TAKE CARE OF HER!



H'M-- FROM HAL-- "SOMETHING IMPORTANT BROKE. COME WITH MESSENGER - HAL"

SAY, WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? WHERE ARE WE GOING?



YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH! NOW SHUT UP!



AH! MISS FRAZER, I PRESUME?

LOCK HER UP AND DESTROY THAT CAMERA

UNKNOWN TO FRAN - HAMLET, THE FAITHFUL GREAT DANE, SENSING DANGER. SWIFTLY FOLLOWS THE CAR





THEY GOT YOU, TOO. HA! HA! WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT? YOU'RE WORSE OFF THAN I AM



MEANWHILE, IN A ROOM DIRECTLY UNDER FRAN'S CELL..

TOMORROW MURANIA IS OURS. HEIL!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING.?

SH-H! THE STEEL GUARD! I'M TAKING PICTURES OF THEM WITH MY SPECIAL MINIFLEX



NOW THAT YOU HAVE THE PICTURES, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THEM?

SH-H- I HEAR BARKING. IT'S COMING FROM OUTSIDE



HERE, HAMLET! CATCH! TAKE IT TO THE PRINCE, THE PRINCE!



AT THE ROYAL PALACE

LOOK, FATHER, HERE IS PROOF OF THE TREACHERY. COME QUICK. FRAN IS IN DANGER.

CALL OUT THE GUARD!



SURRENDER, TRAITORS, IN THE NAME OF THE KING!



FOR PREVENTING THE OIL FIELDS OF MURANIA FROM FALLING INTO EVIL HANDS



ON THE LONDON PLANE YOU GOT A MEDAL! ALL I GOT WAS A PICTURE OF YOU

FRAN FRAZER HAS COVERED MANY A DANGEROUS ASSIGNMENT, BUT NONE SO BREATHTAKING AS THE ONE SHE FACES IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF
TOP NOTCH COMICS

The Wizard

THE MAN WITH THE SUPER-BRAIN
and ROY THE SUPER-BOY

WITH HIS SUPER-BRAIN AND PHOTOGRAPHIC MIND, THE WIZARD IS ABLE TO VISUALIZE FAR-AWAY HAPPENINGS! THE WIZARD, IN REAL LIFE, BLANE WHITNEY, NEWS-PAPER OWNER, IS TEAMED UP WITH ROY, THE SUPER-BOY, BOY WONDER OF THE AGE. TOGETHER THEY CUT THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE SWATH THROUGH THE RANKS OF CRIME IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND!



by AL Camy & Shorten.



POOR FELLOW!
HE'S OUT OF
HIS HEAD!

DON'T OPERATE!
PLEASE! PLEASE!
I AIN'T SICK. YOU
CAN'T DO THIS
TO ME!



LATER!

DEAD, HUH, DOC!

YES! TOO BAD, ISN'T
IT? THE PATIENT
WAS BEYOND THE
AID OF MEDICINE!

NOW I'LL JUST SIGN THIS DEATH CERTIFICATE SAYING OUR PATIENT DIED OF NATURAL CAUSES, AND EVERYTHING'LL BE LEGAL, HUH, CHARLIE?

HAW, HAW! OVER-DEVELOPED VOCAL CORDS, WASN'T IT, DOC?



NEXT DAY!

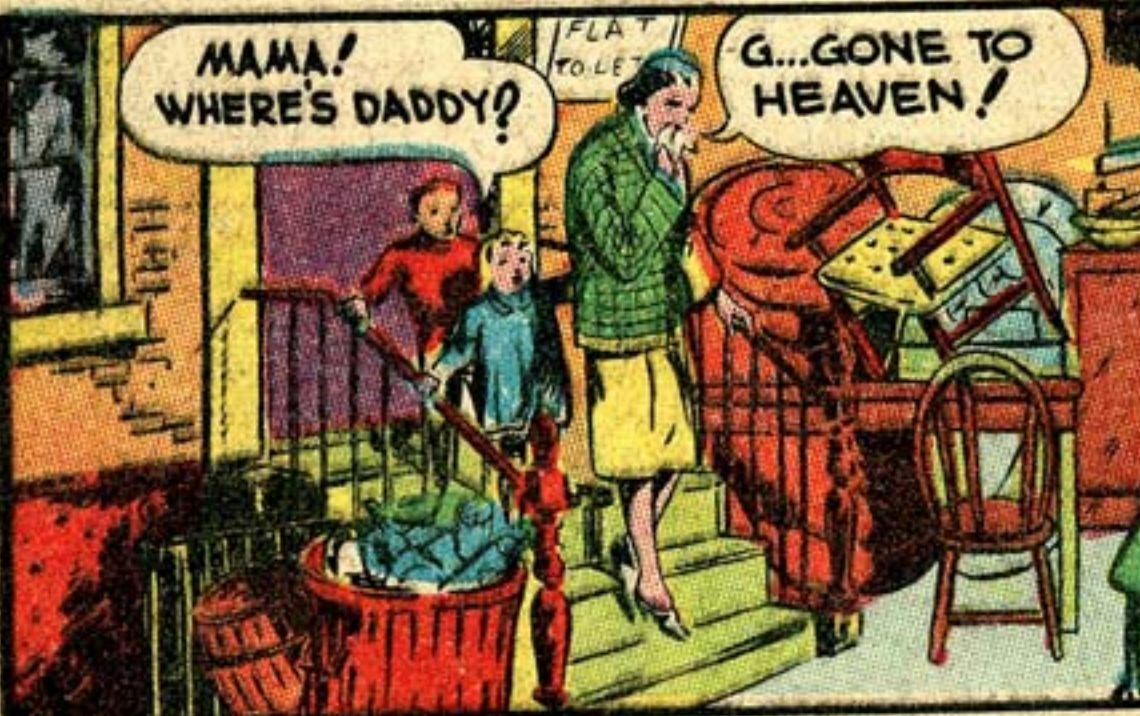
THESE SLUMS OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO GIVE US A GOOD HUMAN INTEREST STORY, ROY!

IT SURE SHOULD JANE!



MAMA! WHERE'S DADDY?

G...GONE TO HEAVEN!



GOOD GRIEF! WHAT A PITIFUL CASE! A DEATH IN THE FAMILY AND AN EVICTION! THIS IS OUR STORY, ROY!



ER... I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BUT, PERHAPS, IF YOU TELL ME YOUR STORY I CAN HELP YOU!

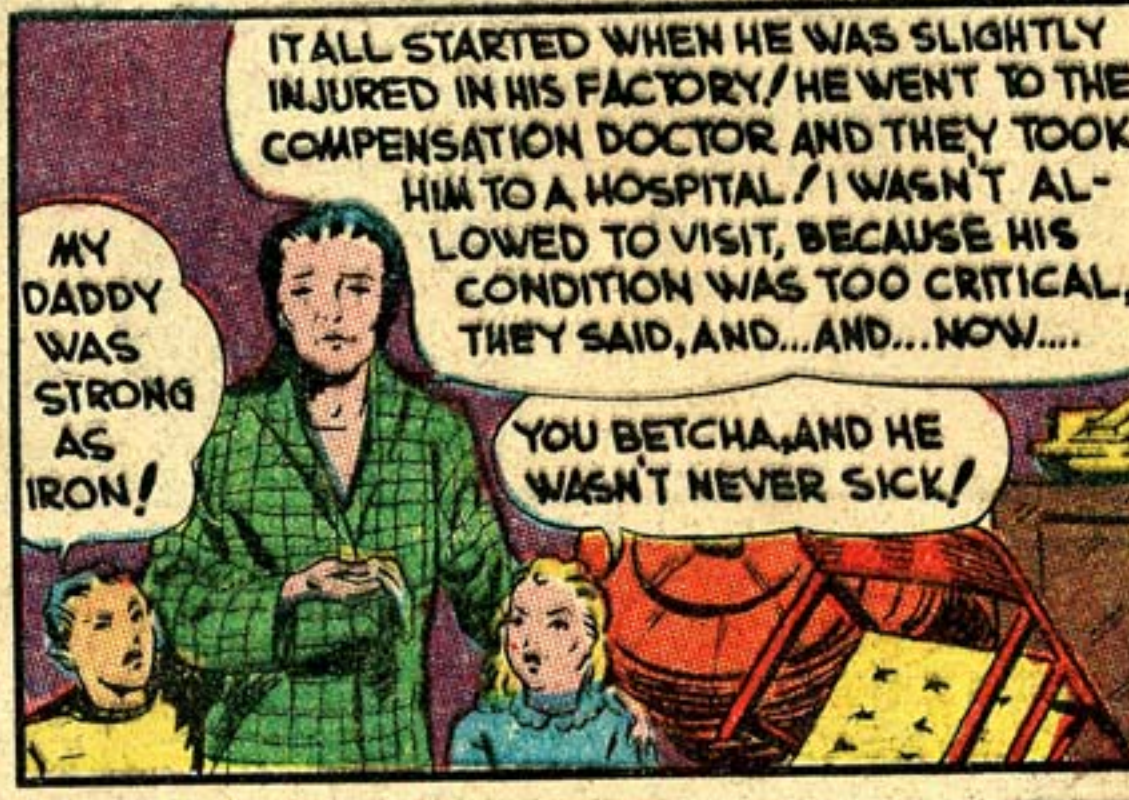
P...PERHAPS YOU CAN (SOB, SOB) M...MY HUSBAND'S GONE, AND MY TWO CHILDREN AND MYSELF ARE LEFT HOMELESS!



IT ALL STARTED WHEN HE WAS SLIGHTLY INJURED IN HIS FACTORY! HE WENT TO THE COMPENSATION DOCTOR AND THEY TOOK HIM TO A HOSPITAL! I WASN'T ALLOWED TO VISIT, BECAUSE HIS CONDITION WAS TOO CRITICAL, THEY SAID, AND...AND...NOW....

MY DADDY WAS STRONG AS IRON!

YOU BETCHA, AND HE WASN'T NEVER SICK!



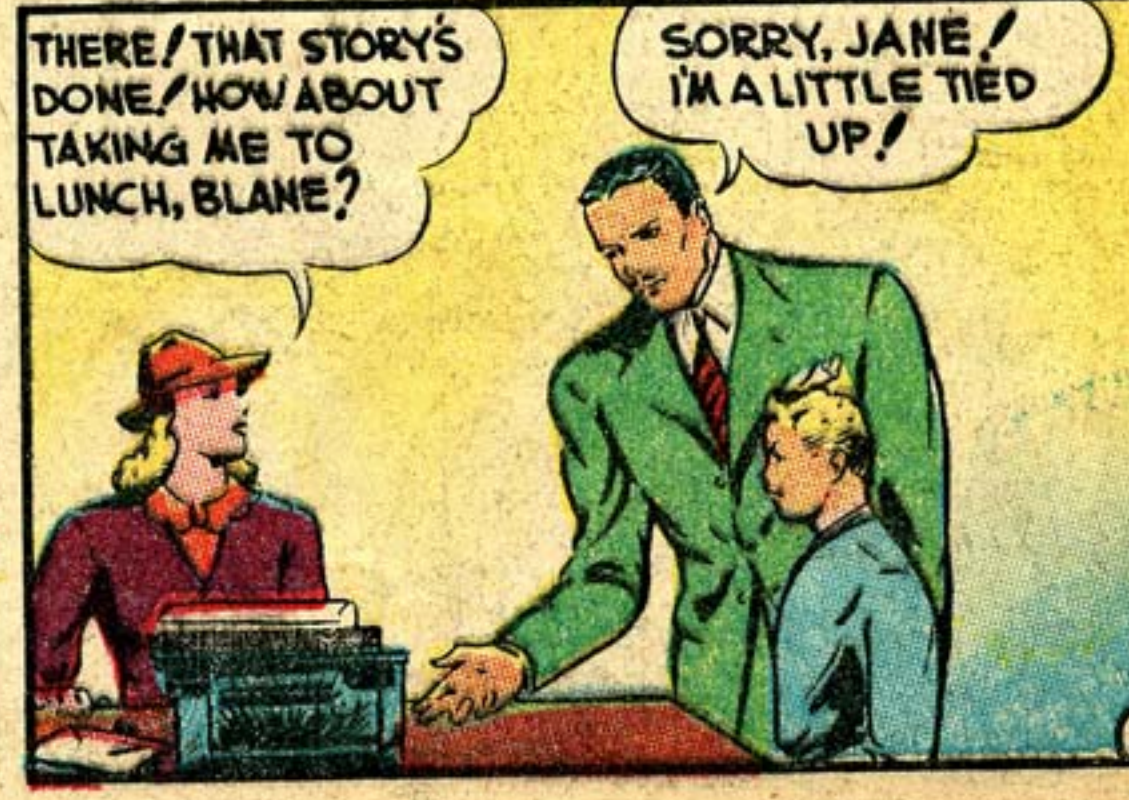
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.... AND THIS TWENTY DOLLARS OUGHT TO BE OF SOME HELP!

OH! GOD BLESS YOU, MISS!



THERE! THAT STORY'S DONE! HOW ABOUT TAKING ME TO LUNCH, BLANE?

SORRY, JANE! I'M A LITTLE TIED UP!



I BET THERE'S SUMPIN' FUNNY ABOUT THE WHOLE THING, BLANE. I ASKED SOME OTHER KIDS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, 'N THEY SAID THEIR FATHERS ALSO GOT OPERATED ON SICKNESSES THEY DIDN'T KNOW THEY HAD!



MRS. KREYVICH RELATED HEARTEROKENLY HOW HER HUSBAND HAD BEEN CONFINED IN THE WELFARE HOSPITAL, AND HAD BEEN ALLOWED NO VISITORS, NOT EVEN HERSELF. THE NEXT TIME SHE SAW HER HUSBAND, HE WAS DEAD, WITH NO OTHER EXPLANATION, OTHER THAN IT WAS OF NATURAL CAUSES.

HMM! THE WHOLE BUSINESS DOES SOUND A LITTLE FISHY!

WHATCHA GONNA DO, HUH, BLANE? CHECK UP ON THIS WELFARE HOSPITAL... WHY THERE'S SUCH HOSPITAL LISTED IN THIS MEDICAL DIRECTORY!



WHEE! WE'RE GOIN' TO LOOK INTO THIS THING, HUH, BLANE?

NOT WE. JUST ME. YOU'RE STAYING HERE! MAYBE THERE'S NOTHING TO THE WHOLE STORY!



I GOT HURT IN THE FACTORY! I WAS TOLD BY OUR COMPENSATION DOCTOR TO REPORT AT THIS HOSPITAL!

ONE MOMENT. OUR DOCTOR WILL HAVE A LOOK AT YOU!



HMM, THAT'S A NASTY CUT. INFECTION HAS ALREADY SET IN. WE'LL HAVE TO OPERATE IMMEDIATELY. BEFORE THE POISON REACHES THE BRAIN!



BLANE IS PUT UNDER CHLOROFORM, AND THOUGHT TO BE ASLEEP!

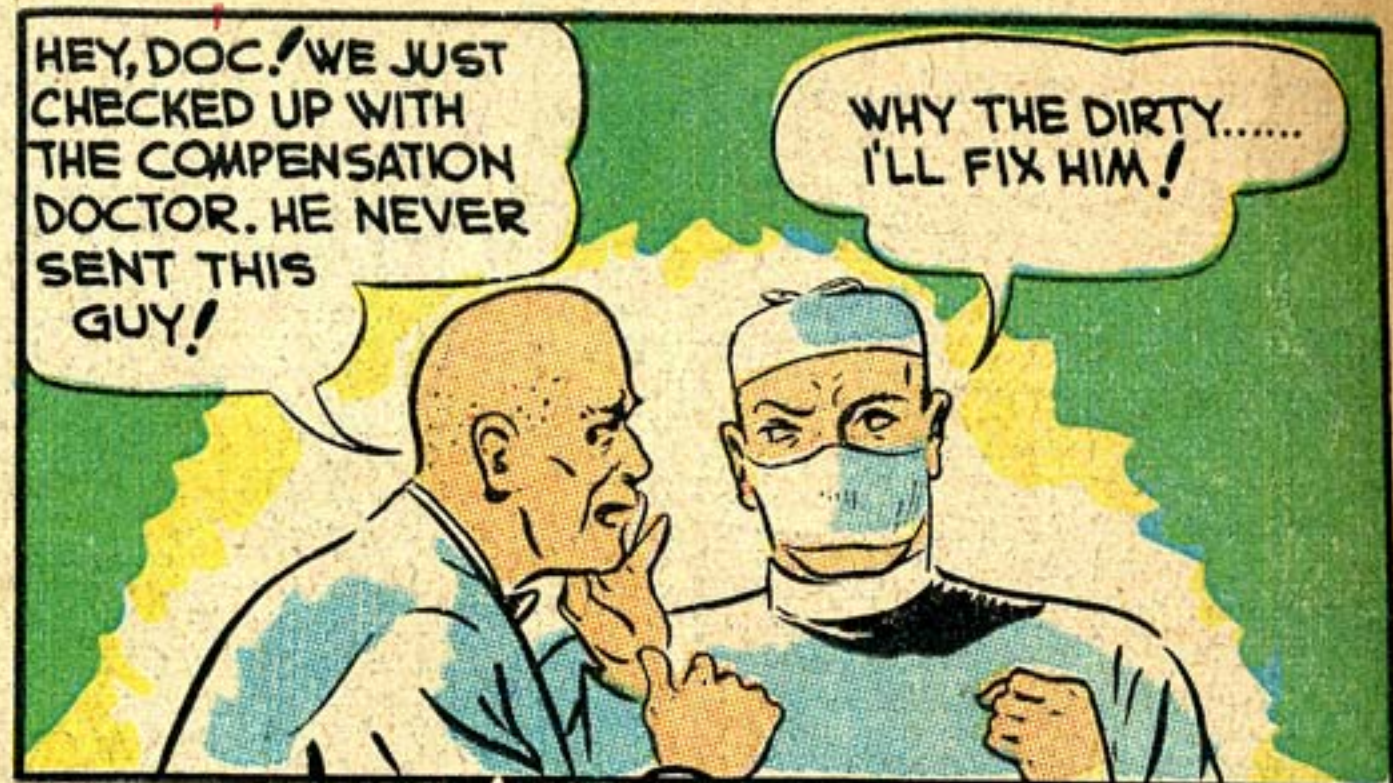
HA, HA! ANOTHER SUCKER. THIS OPERATION'LL COST HIM EVERY NICKEL OF HIS COMPENSATION, AND PLENTY MORE!

YEAH, AND THERE AINT NOBODY C'N PROVE HE WASN'T SICK. YOU'RE A LICENSED DOCTOR/WHATCHA SWEET RACKET!



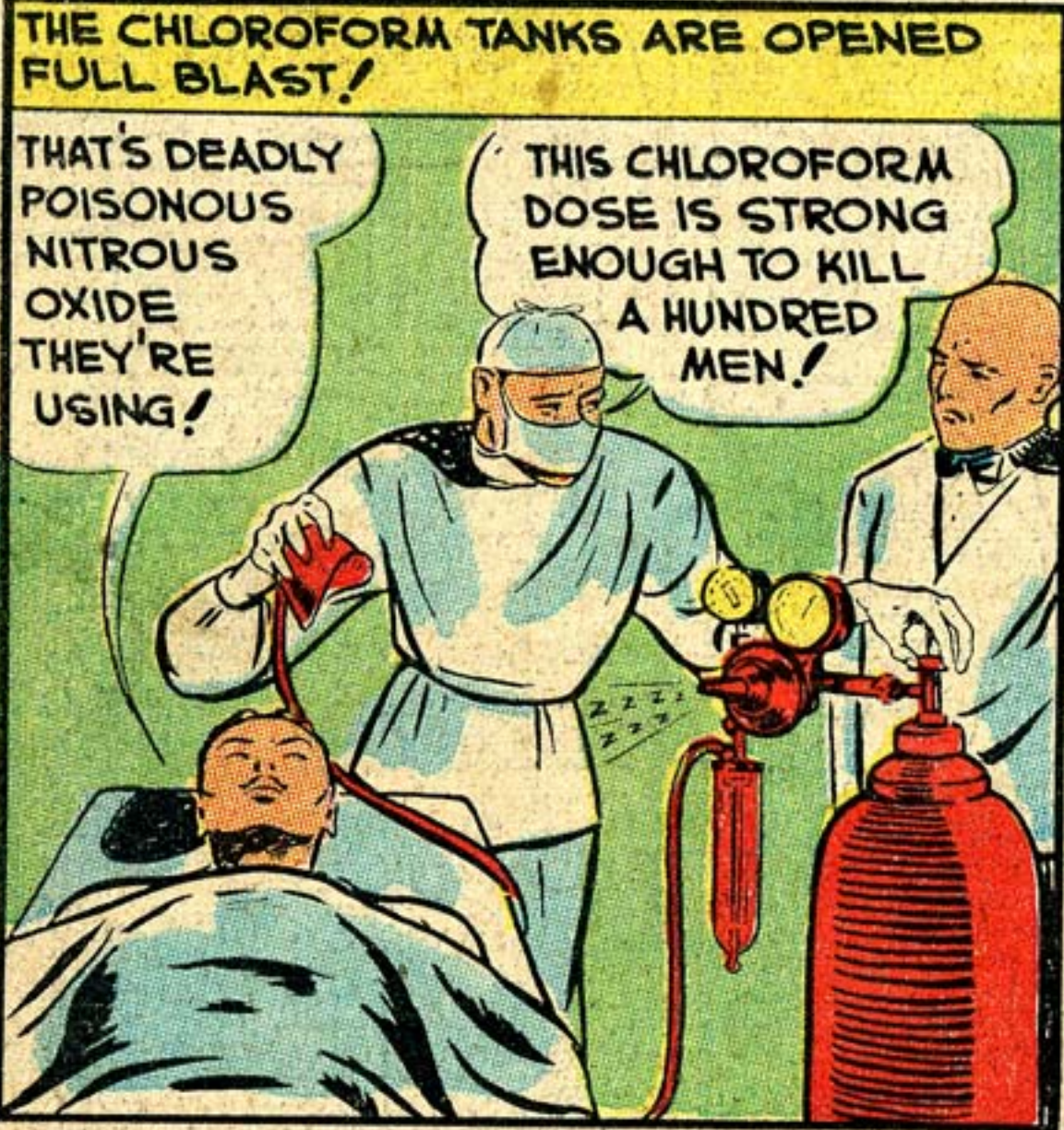


SO! THAT'S THE GAME! WELL, AS SOON AS I GET THE CHANCE TO CHANGE WITHOUT BEING SEEN, THE WIZARD'S GOING TO TAKE A HAND IN THIS GAME!



HEY, DOC! WE JUST CHECKED UP WITH THE COMPENSATION DOCTOR. HE NEVER SENT THIS GUY!

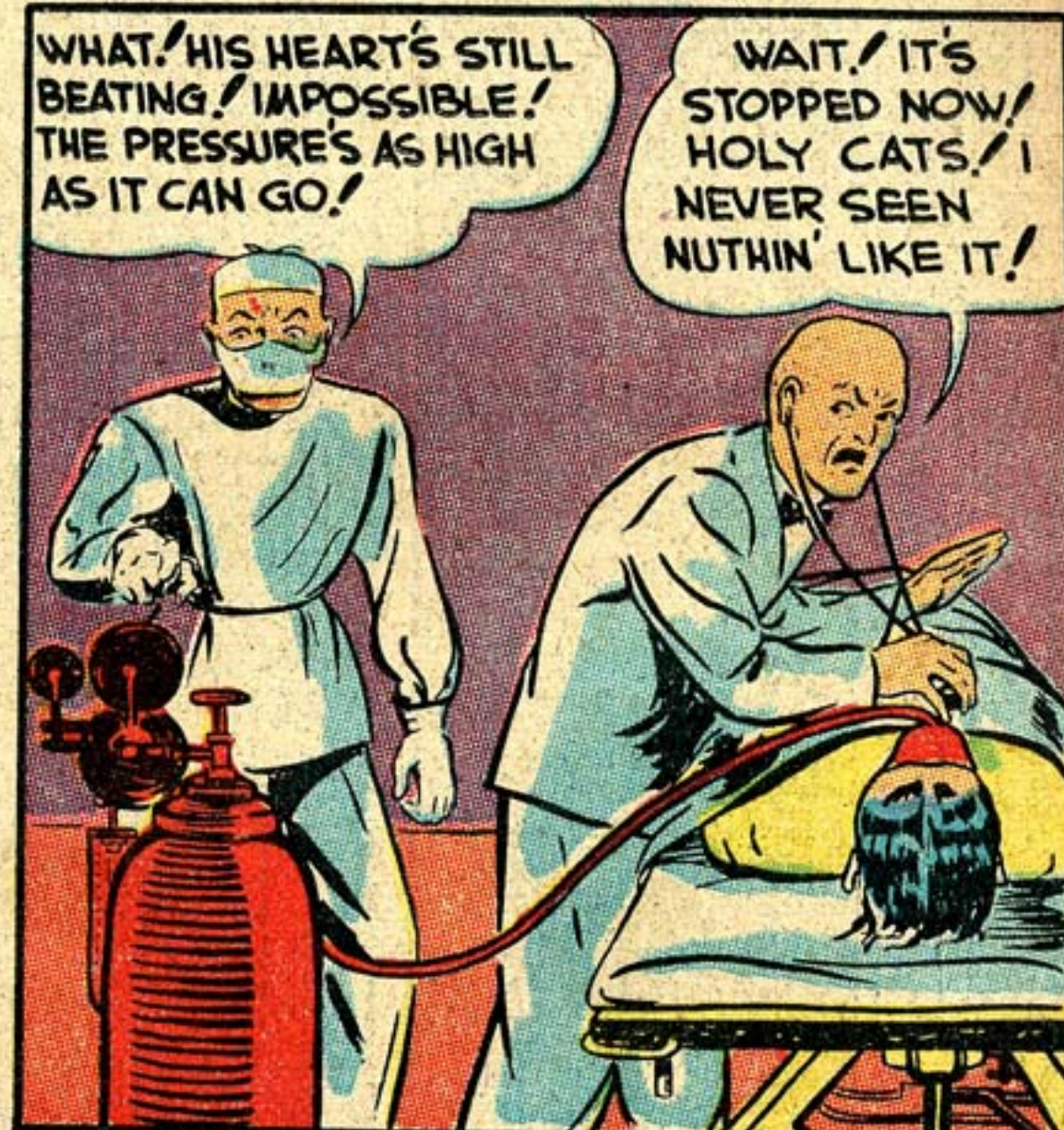
WHY THE DIRTY..... I'LL FIX HIM!



THE CHLOROFORM TANKS ARE OPENED FULL BLAST!

THAT'S DEADLY POISONOUS NITROUS OXIDE THEY'RE USING!

THIS CHLOROFORM DOSE IS STRONG ENOUGH TO KILL A HUNDRED MEN!



WHAT! HIS HEART'S STILL BEATING! IMPOSSIBLE! THE PRESSURE'S AS HIGH AS IT CAN GO!

WAIT! IT'S STOPPED NOW! HOLY CATS! I NEVER SEEN NUTHIN' LIKE IT!



BUT THE SUPER-BOY HAS DISREGARDED THE WIZARD'S INSTRUCTIONS!

TH...THEY'VE HURT THE WIZARD! I'VE GOTTA HELP HIM!

TAKE HIM TO THE CORPSE VAULT!



YOU DIRTY MURDERERS! YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT!

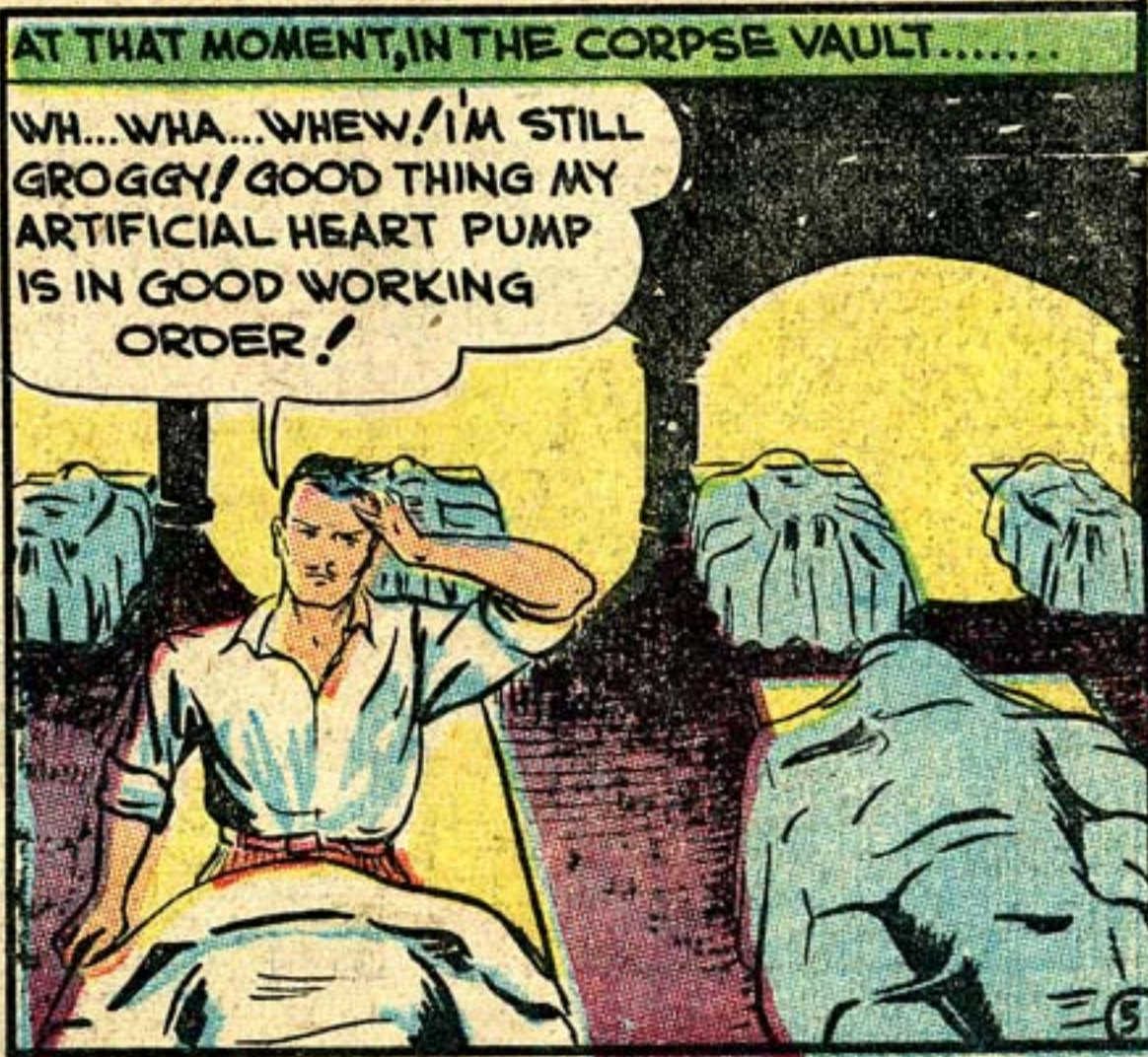
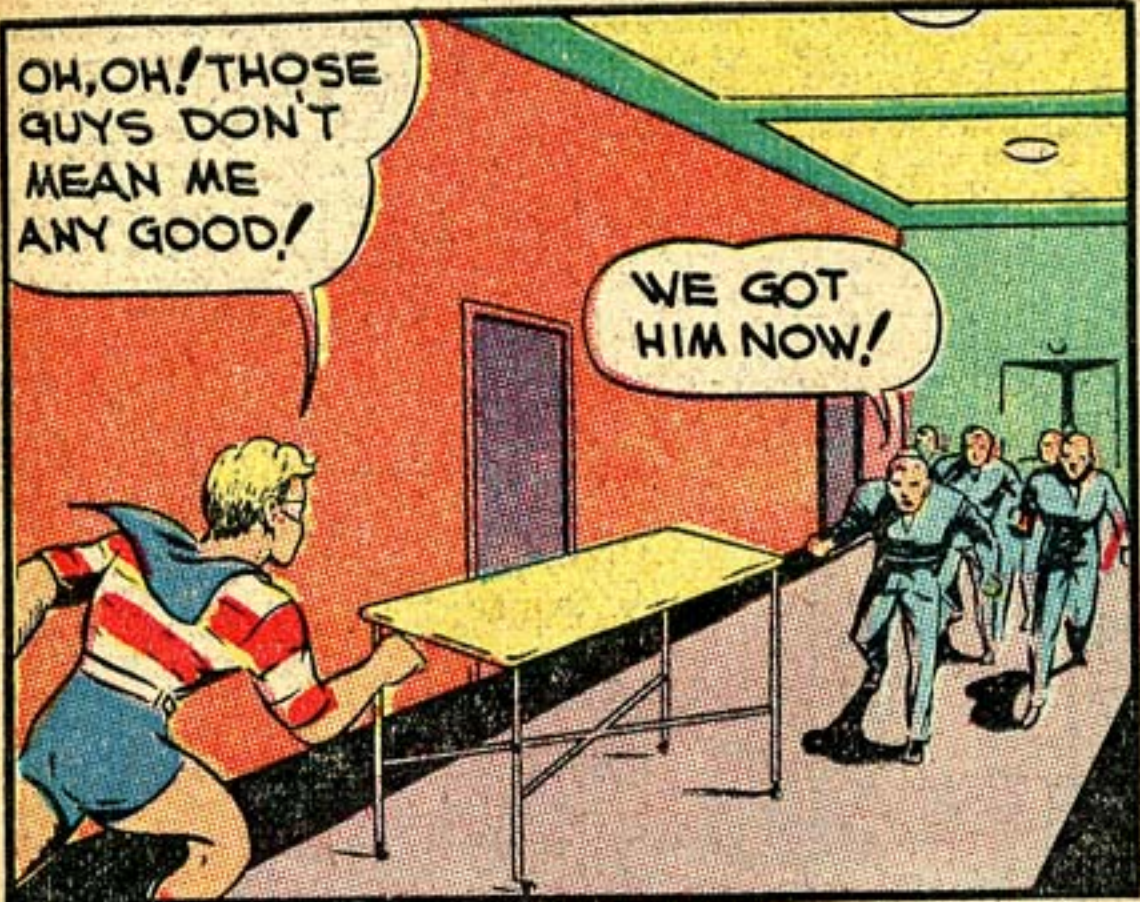
UGH!

IT'S A BRAT!

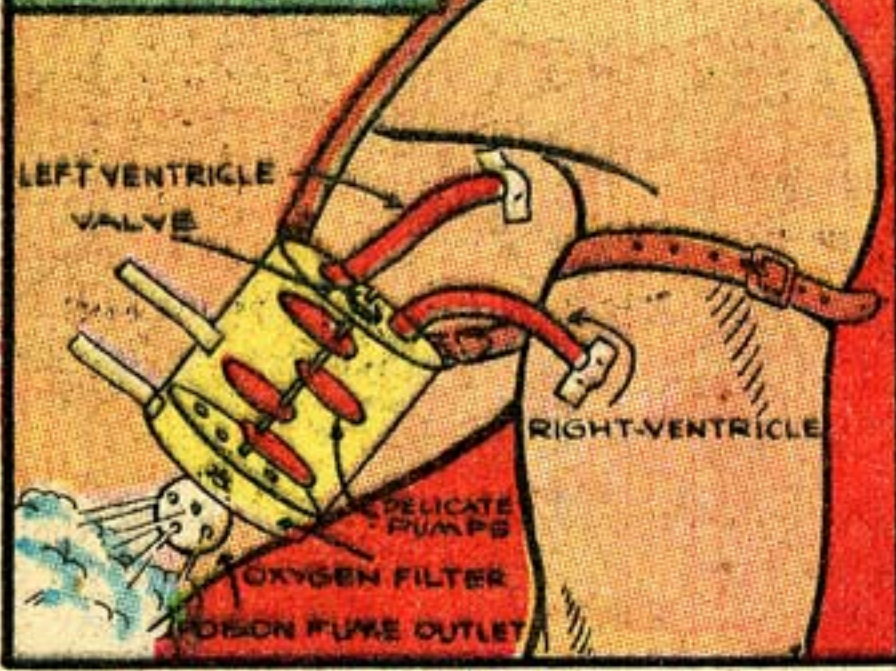


OUTTA MY WAY! YOU'VE HURT MY FRIEND AND I'M GOING AFTER HIM!

QUIET
KILL THAT
☆@s!!3!@!!
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!



THE WIZARD'S LATEST INVENTION.....
THE HEART-PUMP, WHICH HE TOOK
WITH HIM FOR JUST SUCH AN
EMERGENCY!



THE WIZARD'S SUPER-BRAIN IS STIRRED INTO ACTION
BY ROY'S PERIL!



BUT I HAVE A LOT OF 'URGENT' PATIENTS.....
OKAY! OKAY! I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN THERE!

EVERY MEMBER OF THE CROOKED ORGANIZATION SOON ARRIVES AT THE HOSPITAL!

HELLO, BOYS! WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!

HOW'M I DOING, WIZARD?

I THINK I'LL GO STRAIGHT UP TO THE BOSS'S OFFICE!

THINK AGAIN, RAT! YOU'RE COMING RIGHT IN HERE!

THE DOCTOR'S MEMO BOOK HAS SIX LISTED HERE. HAVE WE GOT 'EM ALL, ROY?

YEP, THEY'RE ALL HERE, WIZARD!

COME ON, ROY! THEY'LL BE SAFE ENOUGH UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVE!

I BET THEY'D RATHER BE IN JAIL THAN HAVE YOU AFTER 'EM, HUH, WIZARD!

LATER, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE!

THAT WASN'T A PHONEY TIP AFTER ALL, CHIEF! WE JUST ROUNDED UP THE WHOLE GANG IN THE FAKE HOSPITAL!

WHAT'S THE CHARGES AGAINST THEM?

NUTHIN' EXCEPT RUNNIN' AN UN-AUTHORIZED HOSPITAL AND HAVING UNIDENTIFIED CORPSES!

THERE'S SOME KIND OF RACKET INVOLVED. SWEAT IT OUT OF THEM!

YOU'RE THE RINGLEADER! TALK AND IT'LL GO EASY WITH YOU! WHAT'S THE RACKET?

HOW'D THOSE STIFFS DIE?

I'M NOT TELLING ANYTHING.

WHERE DO YA KEEP YER RECORDS?

JUST THEN....

WUXTRY! READ ALL ABOUT IT! JANE BARLOWE EXPOSES COMPENSATION RACKET!

HEY! WHAT IS THIS! A GAG?

WOW! THERE'S ENOUGH STUFF IN HERE TO SEND 'EM ALL TO THE CHAIR!

A FINE POLICE DEPARTMENT! WE'VE GOT TO READ THE NEWSPAPERS TO CONVICT THE CRIMINALS WE CATCH!

THAT WAS QUITE A SCOOP THE WIZARD GAVE US, JANE!

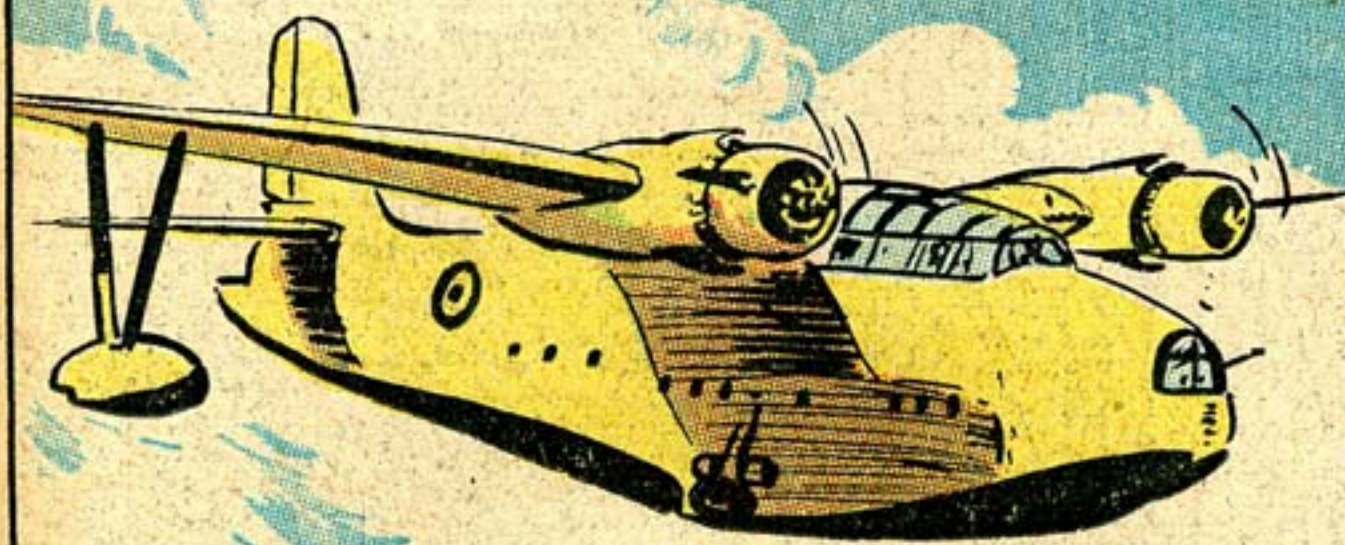
YES! I STILL CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW THE WIZARD COULD BE A FRIEND TO SUCH AN IDLER LIKE YOURSELF, MR. BLANE WHITNEY!

THRILLS AND MORE THRILLS! EACH ISSUE OF THE WIZARD AND ROY, THE SUPER-BOY, SEEMS TO HAVE PRESENTED THE GREATEST ADVENTURE OF THEIR CAREERS-UNTIL THE NEXT ONE COMES ALONG. AND THE NEXT WIZARD-SUPER-BOY EDITION IS NO EXCEPTION. DON'T FAIL TO READ IT!

WINGS JOHNSON

OF
THE

Air Patrol



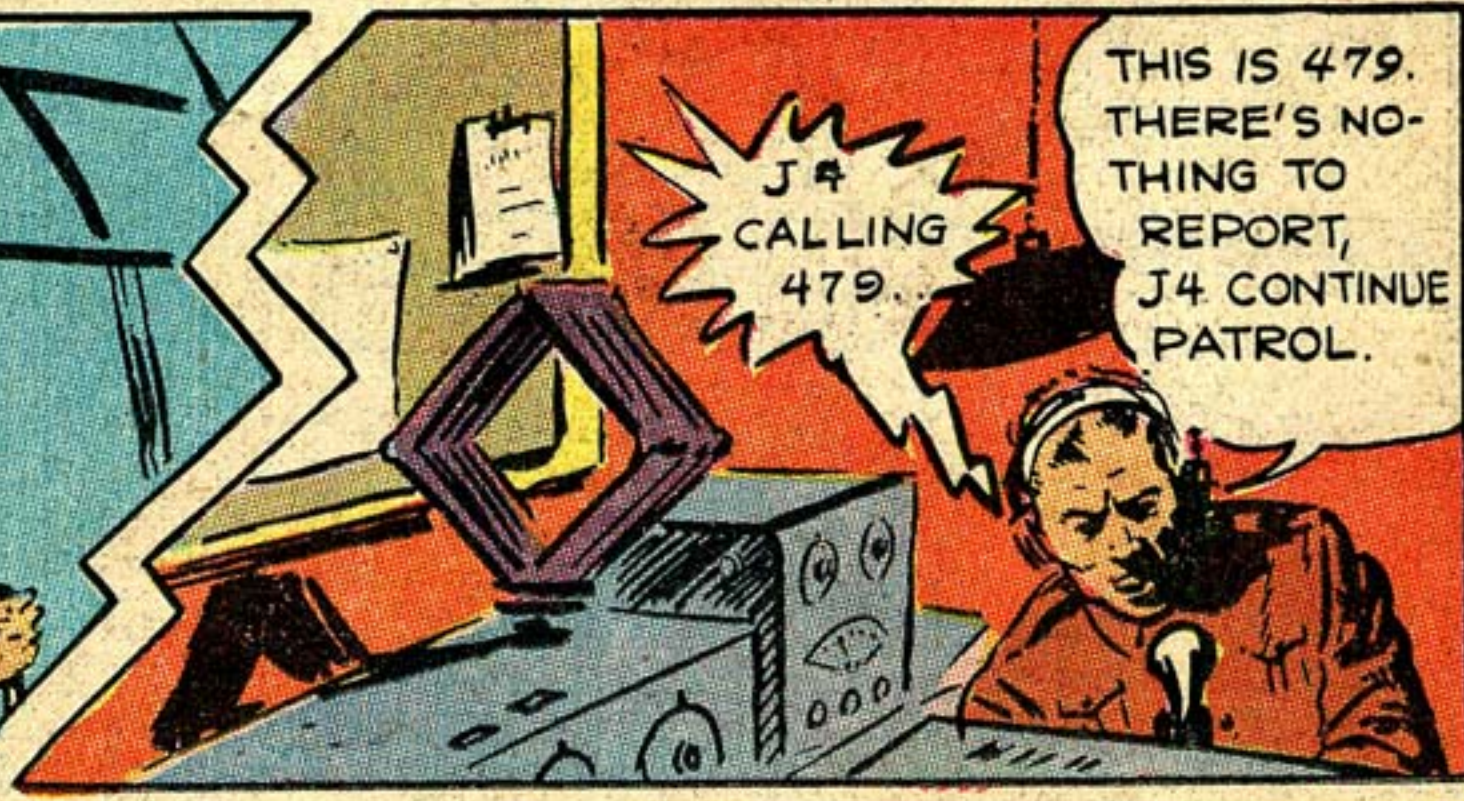
WINGS JOHNSON, AMERICAN YOUTH AND HIS PAL, HENRY HIGGINS, ARE SERVING WITH THE ROYAL AIR FORCE. THEY ARE NOW ASSIGNED TO PATROL DUTY OVER THE NORTH SEA --- WINGS IS REPORTING TO HIS CENTRAL STATION.

by Ed SMALLE and JOE BLAIR.

SAUNDERS ROE "LERWICK"



J 4 CALLING 479.
J 4 CALLING 479.
COME IN, 479!



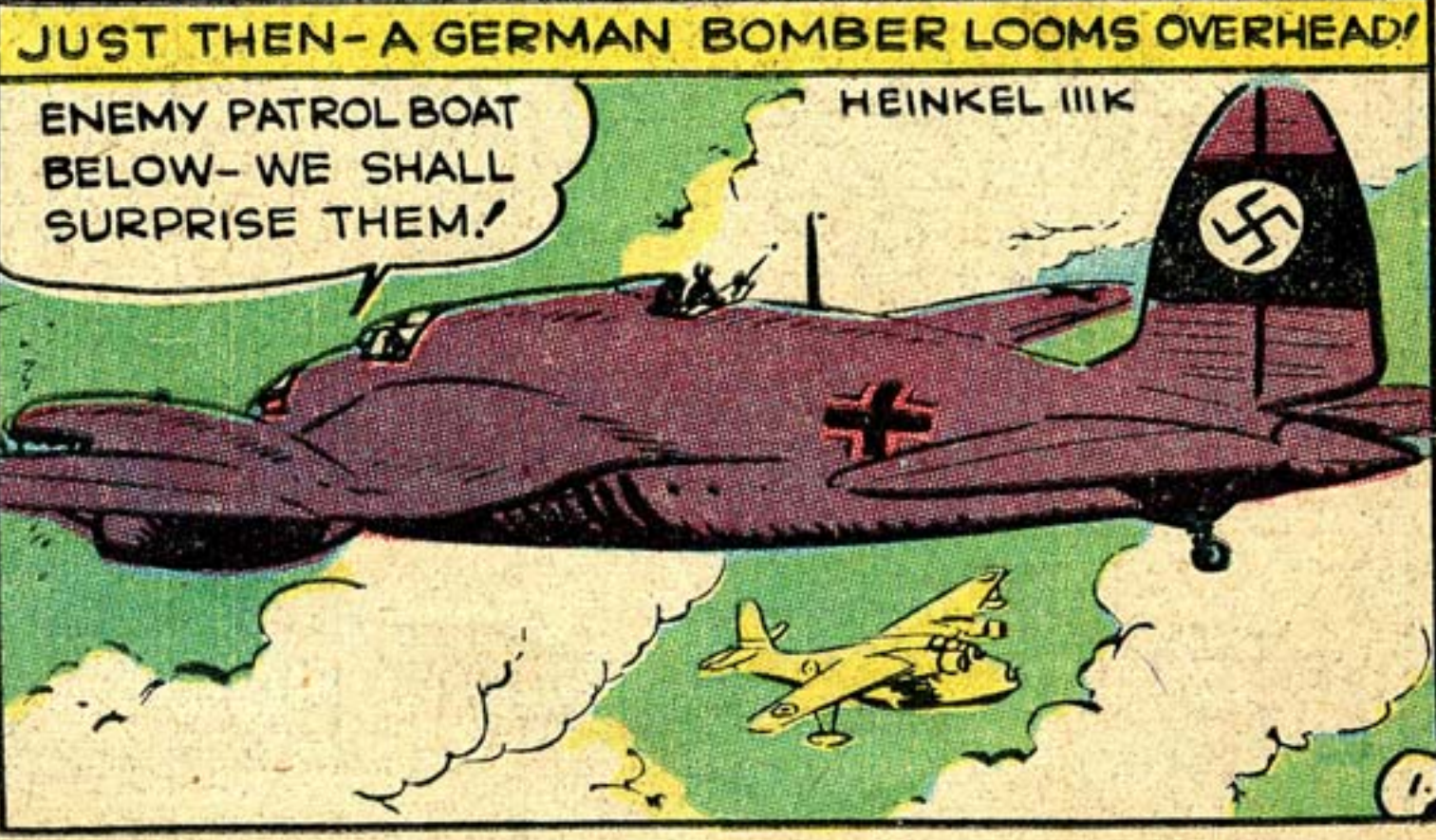
J 4
CALLING
479...

THIS IS 479.
THERE'S NO-
THING TO
REPORT,
J4. CONTINUE
PATROL.



CONTINUE PATROL!
THAT'S ALL WE'VE
DONE FOR THREE
DAYS! I WISH
SOMETHING
WOULD
HAPPEN!

CONTINUE
PATROL--



JUST THEN-- A GERMAN BOMBER LOOMS OVERHEAD!

ENEMY PATROL BOAT
BELOW-- WE SHALL
SURPRISE THEM!

HEINKEL IIIK



BUT WINGS IS NOT CAUGHT NAPPING!

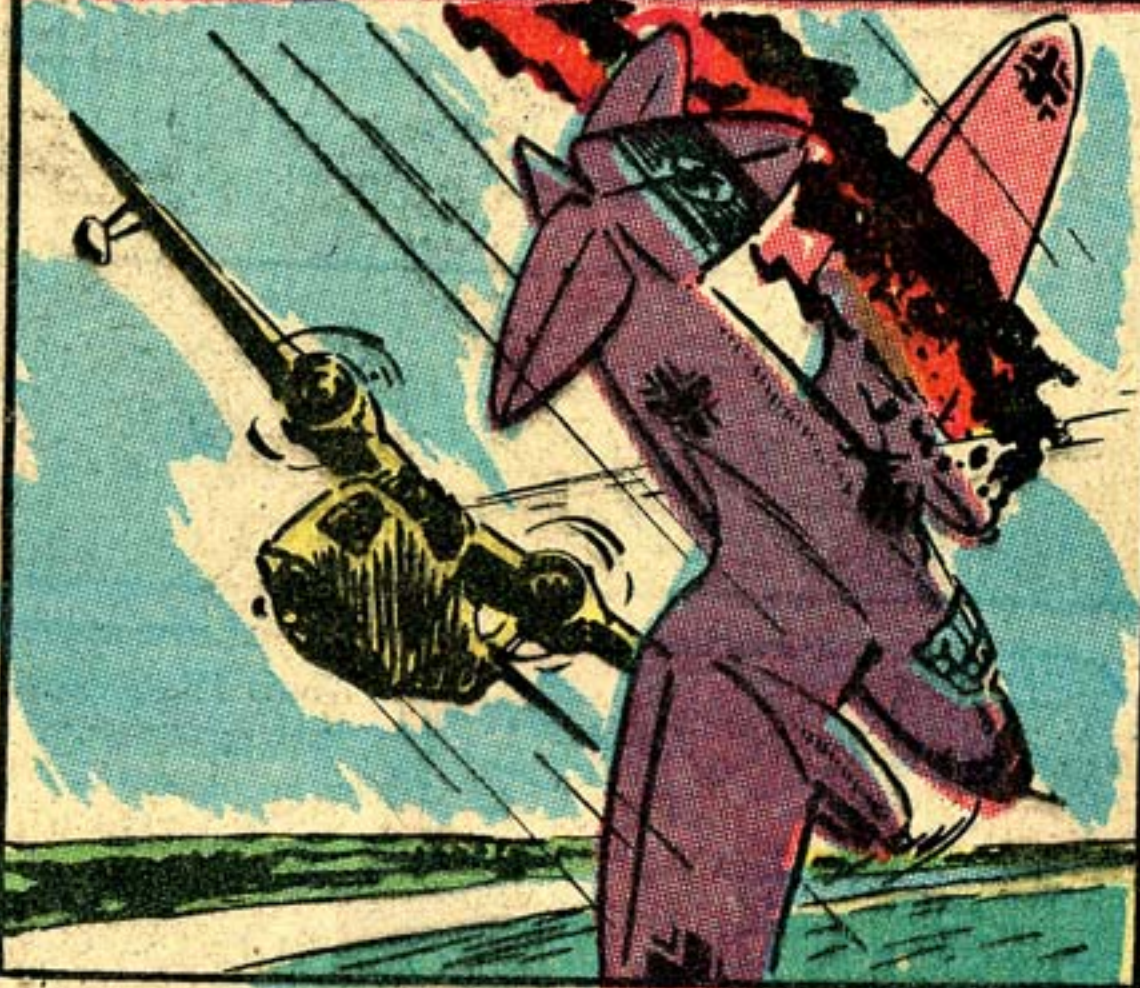


SO! WE HAVE A LITTLE STRANGER IN OUR MIDST-- WARN THE GUNNERS, HENRY!

AS THE HEINKEL SWOOPS DOWN, WINGS WHIPS HIS SHIP INTO A STALL...



AND HIS BOW GUNS FIND THEIR MARK!



WE'VE GOT HIM ON THE RUN, WINGSIE KEEP AFTER HIM!

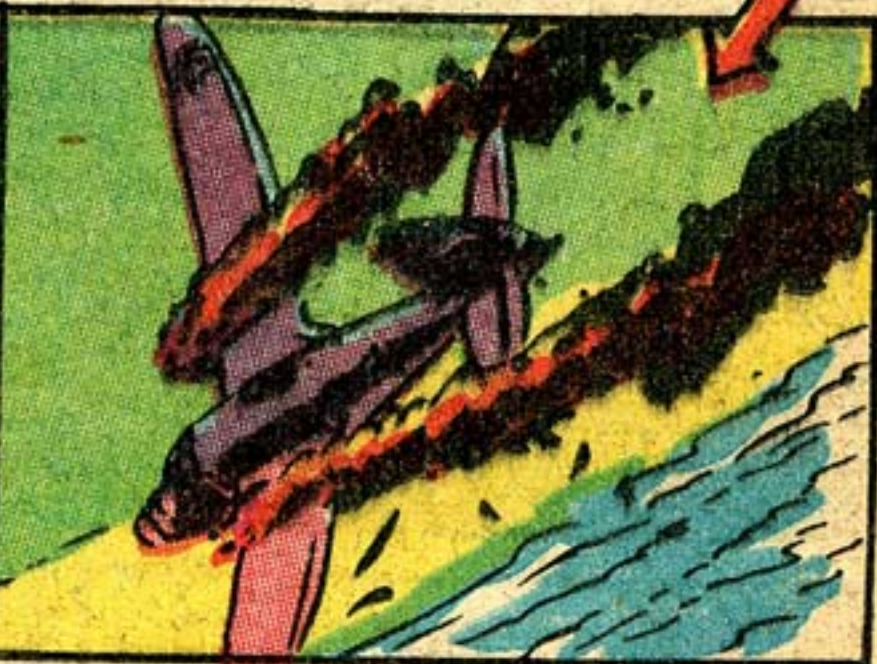
YIPPEE! THERE GOES HIS OTHER MOTOR!



WE BETTER LAND, HENRY!

AND CRASHES ON THE BEACH--

WITH BOTH MOTORS ABLAZE, THE ENEMY BOMBER GOES OUT OF CONTROL!



SHEERING OFF THE BURNING MOTORS!

GET ME ASHORE, QUICK! THEY MAY STILL BE ALIVE!





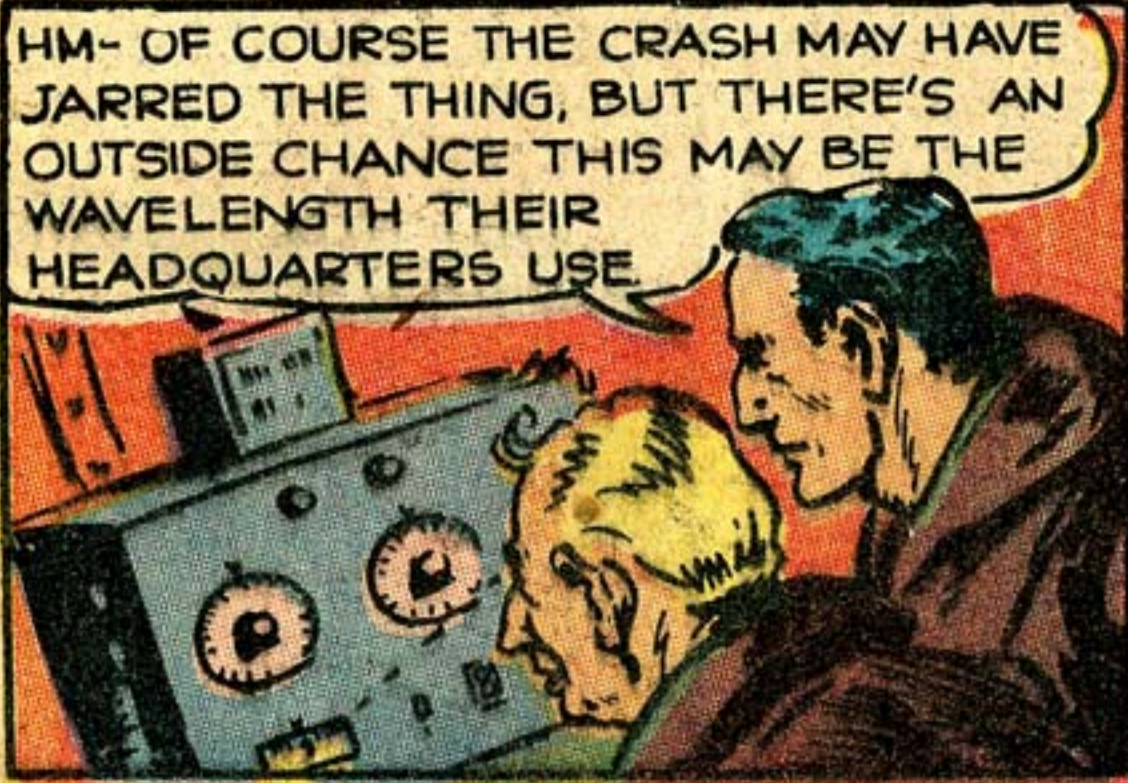
I'M AFRAID THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO FOR THESE BOYS, AT THAT-



INSIDE THE WRECK

WELL, OLD BOY, I'M AFRAID YOU HAVE SENT YOUR LAST RADIO MESSAGE--

SAY, WINGS, LOOK H'AT 'TH SET O' 'S DIAL!



HM- OF COURSE THE CRASH MAY HAVE JARRED THE THING, BUT THERE'S AN OUTSIDE CHANCE THIS MAY BE THE WAVELENGTH THEIR HEADQUARTERS USE



-THIS IS LUCK! A GERMAN RADIO CODE BOOK!

H'IF THAT DIAL IS SET CORRECTLY, WE CAN TUNE IN



AND THEN DECODE THEIR MESSAGES WITH THIS CODE BOOK! C'MON, HENRY.



BACK IN THEIR PATROL BOAT-

NOW LET'S GIVE THAT WAVELENGTH A TRY --- WH-- I'VE GOT IT!

22-HUITS
F-GHTS-33
SWPS-18



I WAS RIGHT! THIS MESSAGE DECODED, MEANS"- ALL BOMBERS REPORT TO BASES AT ONCE - PREPARE FOR BOMB-BARDMENT OF ENEMY NAVAL BASE AT MID-NIGHT. " WOW "



WINGS STREAKS FOR HOME WITH THE SECRET INFORMATION - - -

BACK HOME, WINGS RUSHES TO THE C.O.

SORRY TO BREAK IN LIKE THIS, SIR, BUT I HAVE A VITAL MESSAGE!

ALL RIGHT JOHNSON, WHAT IS IT?



-- AND TELLS HIS STORY!

THIS IS ASTOUNDING! I'LL NOTIFY THE ADMIRALTY AND AIR CHIEF AT ONCE!

ER, MAJOR, I HOPE YOU'LL LET MY SQUADRON BE IN ON ANY ACTION...



ALL RIGHT, JOHNSON, YOUR FLIGHT WILL TAKE OFF AT ELEVEN-THIRTY AND PROCEED TO NAVY BASE IN SECTOR 51- AND SEE TO IT THAT NO ENEMY BOMBS HIT THE BRIDGE THERE.



IF THEY DO, HALF OF OUR FLEET WILL BE BOTTLED UP IN ITS OWN BACK YARD!

YES, SIR!



WOT LUCK, WINGSIE?

GET OUR SPITFIRES READY TO GO!



THAT NIGHT GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK!

THANK YOU, SIR, THEY WON'T GET THROUGH UNLESS THEY GET US FIRST!



ALL PILOTS-KEEP IN CLOSE FORMATION. LET'S GO!



AN HOUR LATER OFF THE COAST COMMANDING THE NAVAL BASE IN SECTOR 51

WE'VE BEEN UP HERE AN HOUR NOW AND OUR FUEL IS HALF GONE! IF THEY DON'T COME SOON, I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING

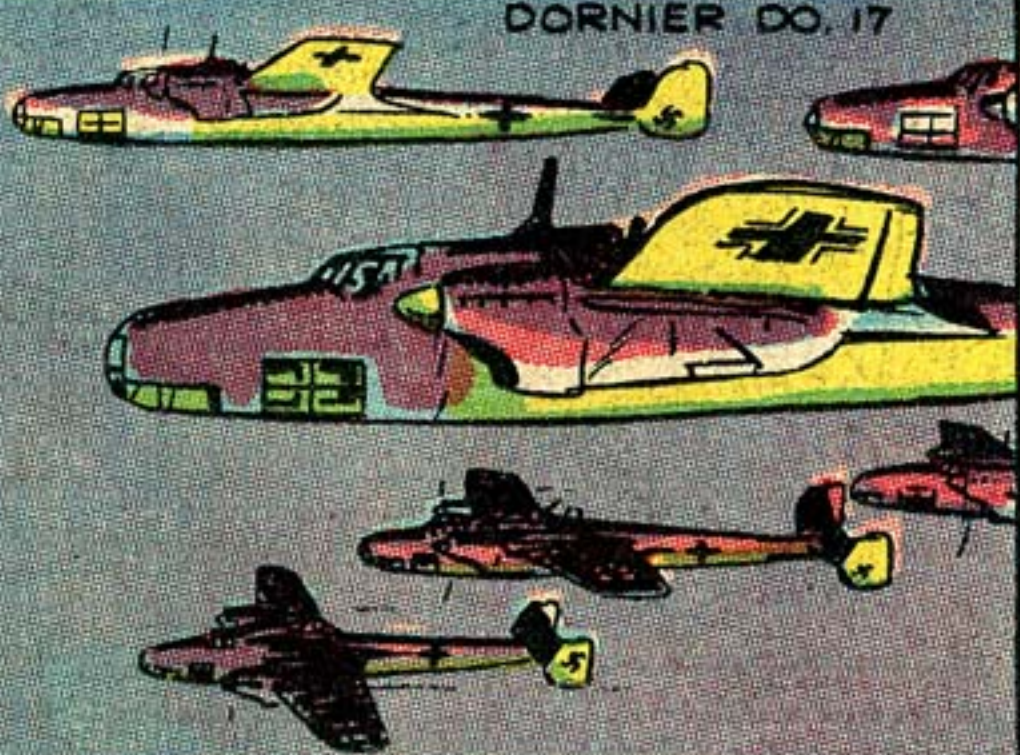


VICKERS "SPITFIRE"

I'LL BE FORCED TO SEND PART OF THE FLIGHT BACK TO REFUEL! BUT WAIT! THOSE ARE FUNNY LOOKING STARS UP THERE!



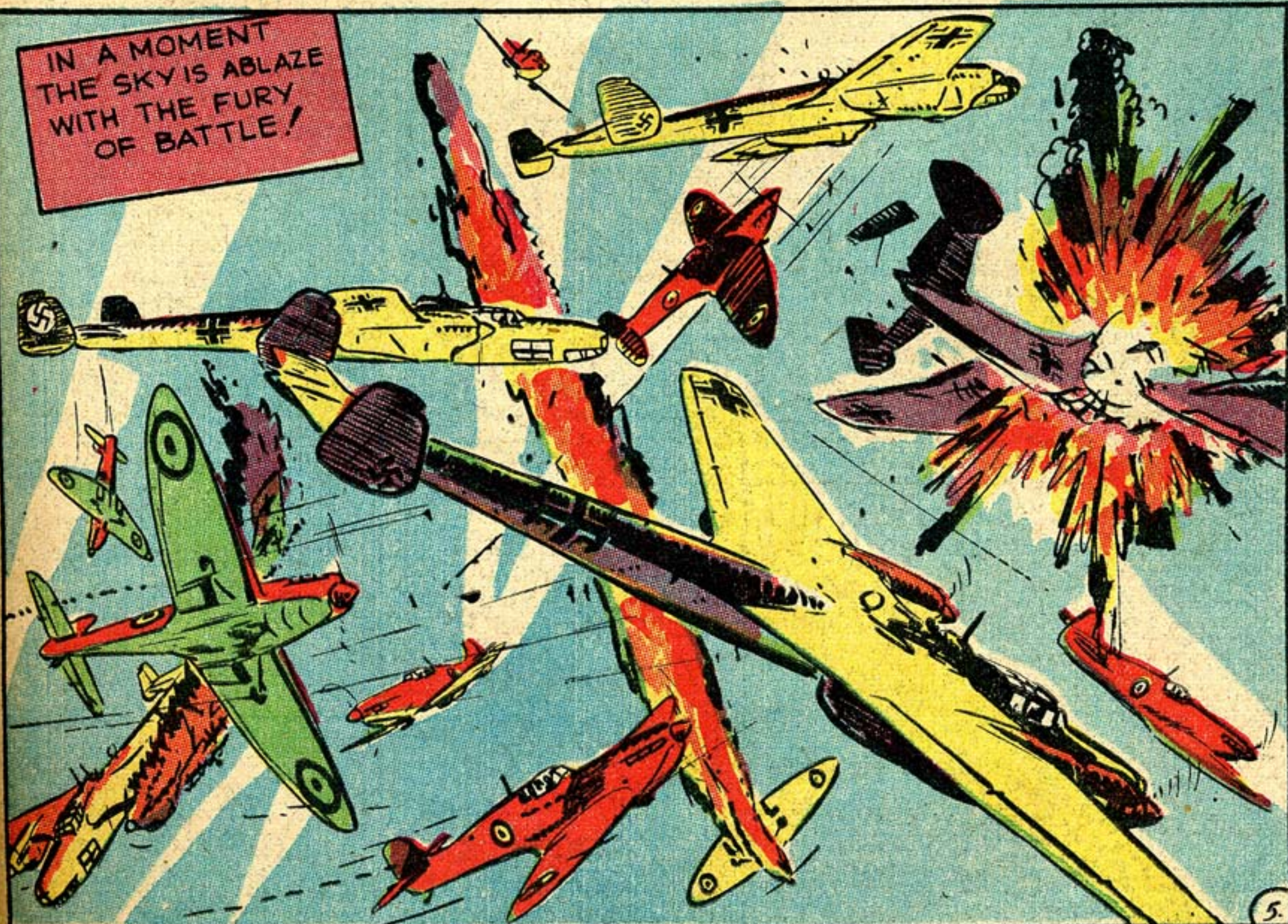
WINGS SIGHTS THE FLASHES FROM THE EXHAUSTS OF THE ENEMY PLANES!



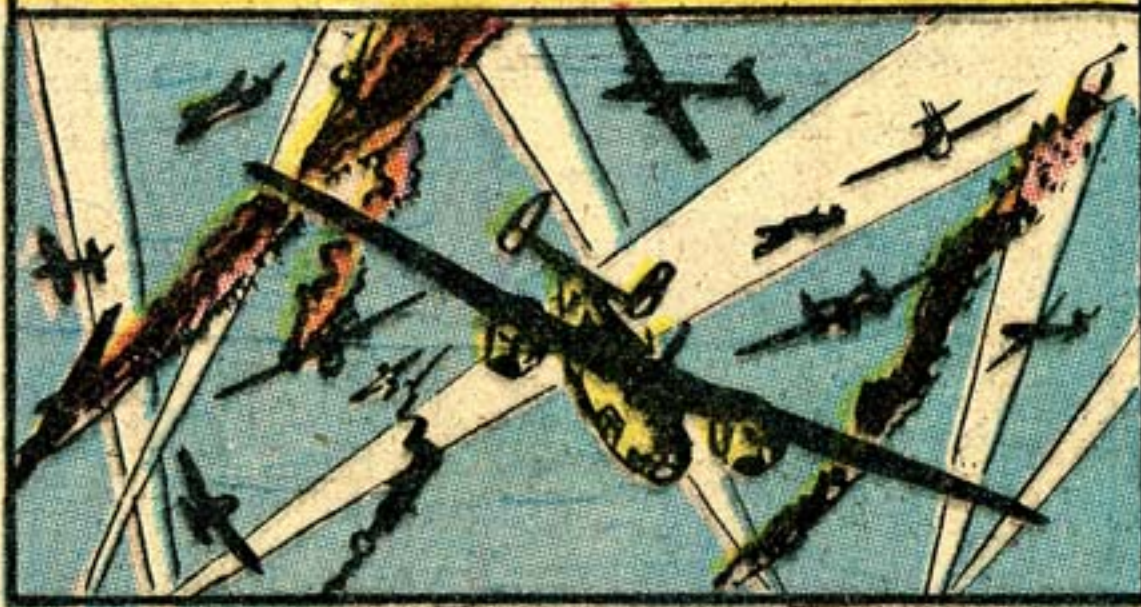
ATTENTION PILOTS! ENEMY BOMBERS OVERHEAD! GIVE 'EM YOUR LANDING LIGHTS TO BLIND 'EM AND GO AND GET THEM!



IN A MOMENT THE SKY IS ABLAZE WITH THE FURY OF BATTLE!



ONE OF THE BOMBERS BREAKS THROUGH



AND MAKES A BEE-LINE FOR THE BRIDGE WITH WINGS ON HIS TAIL!



IT'S A SUICIDE SHIP! IF HE CRASHES INTO THE BRIDGE WITH THAT LOAD O' BOMBS --- BUT I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM!!



JOHNSON STOPS THE BOMBER IN THE ONLY WAY POSSIBLE THEN HE BAILS OUT OF THE FALLING WRECKAGE!



WOW! I JUST MISSED THAT TAIL!

I DIDN'T EXACTLY INTEND TO TAKE A BATH THIS EARLY IN THE MORN- ING!



AHA - THE NAVY TO THE RESCUE. HERE COME A DESTROYER TO PICK ME UP!



CORKING PIECE OF WORK, OLD SOCK. WE SAW YOU FROM DOWN HERE - YOU'LL GET THE VICTORIA CROSS OR I'M A LANCASHIRE PUD- DING!



YOUR SQUADRON JUST NOTIFIED US THAT THE ENEMY HAS BEEN COMPLETELY SQUELCHED

-AND SO IS MY STOM- ACH! I'LL GLADLY TRADE THAT VICTORIA CROSS SOMEONE MENTIONED FOR A STEAMING LANCASHIRE PUD- DING THE SAME GUY SPOKE OF!



FOLLOW THE EXCITING ADVEN- TURES OF WINGS JOHNSON EVERY MONTH IN TOP- NOTCH COMICS



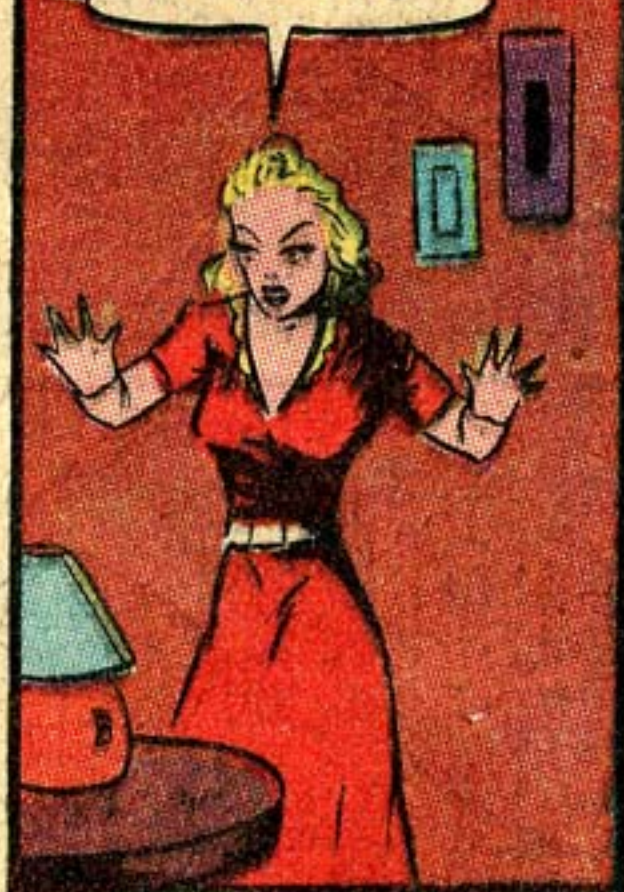
BOB PHANTOM

SCOURGE OF THE UNDERWORLD

ONE NIGHT, A WEIRD SCENE IS ENACTED. A HUMAN FIGURE CRAWLS DOWN THE SIDE OF A BUILDING!



WHAT CAN BE KEEPING MY HUSBAND? HE SAID HE'D BE RIGHT BACK....WH... WHAT'S THAT! SOUNDED LIKE A TAPPING AT THE WINDOW!



A RUSH OF WIND, A SWIRL OF SMOKE, AND THERE STANDS BOB PHANTOM, SOUNDING THE DEATH KNEEL OF CRIMINALS THE WORLD OVER. BOB PHANTOM IS A LONE CRUSADER, WHOSE IDENTITY IN REAL LIFE, AS WALT WHITNEY, BROADWAY COLUMNIST, IS NOT KNOWN BY ANY LIVING SOUL!

THAT'S FUNNY, I THOUGHT I HEARD.....

AS THE GIRL LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW!

A NOOSE DROPS. A SWIFT JERK, AND.....

HEL...LUIGH

HEH, HEH!



..... A HORRIBLE, SMASHING DEATH!

GOOD HEAVENS!
A SUICIDE!



NEXT DAY, IN THE CHIEF OF POLICE'S OFFICE!

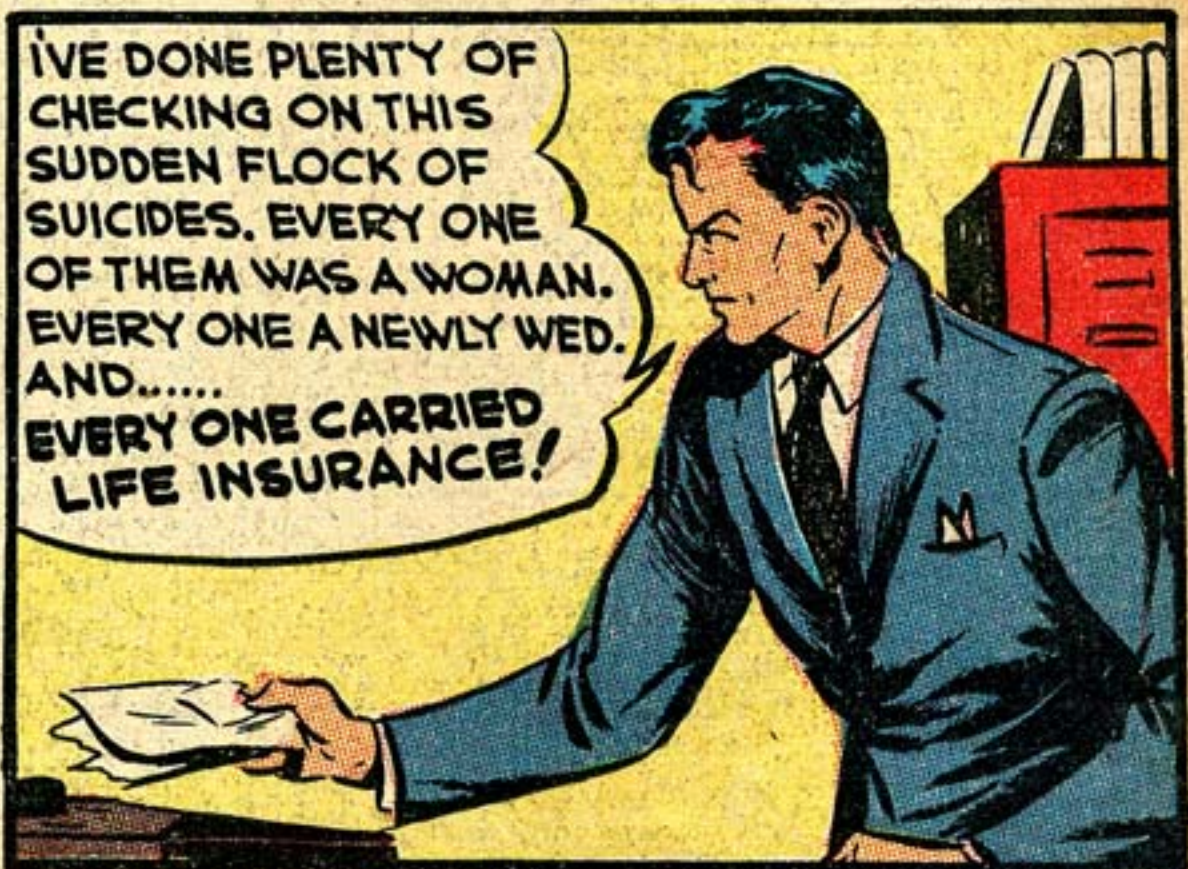
AND YOU WERE DOWN
TO THE GROCER'S
WHEN YOUR WIFE
DIED!

THAT'S RIGHT!
THE GROCER'LL
TELL YOU SO
HIMSELF!

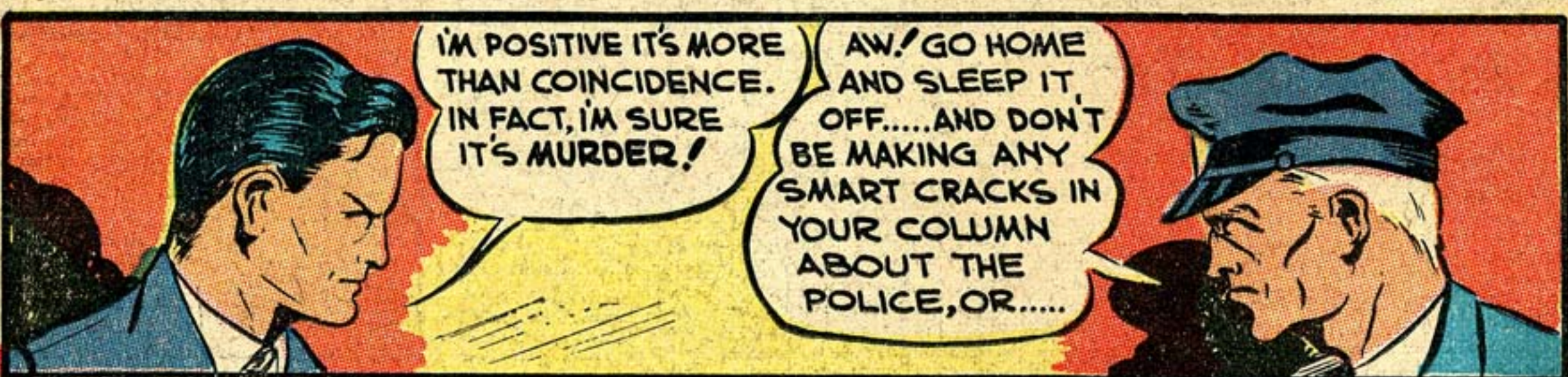


YOU SEE, WHITNEY, IT'S AN OPEN
AND SHUT CASE OF SUICIDE.
YOUR HUNCH WAS WRONG
FOR ONCE!

I'M NOT SO
SURE, YET!



I'VE DONE PLENTY OF
CHECKING ON THIS
SUDDEN FLOCK OF
SUICIDES. EVERY ONE
OF THEM WAS A WOMAN.
EVERY ONE A NEWLY WED.
AND.....
EVERY ONE CARRIED
LIFE INSURANCE!



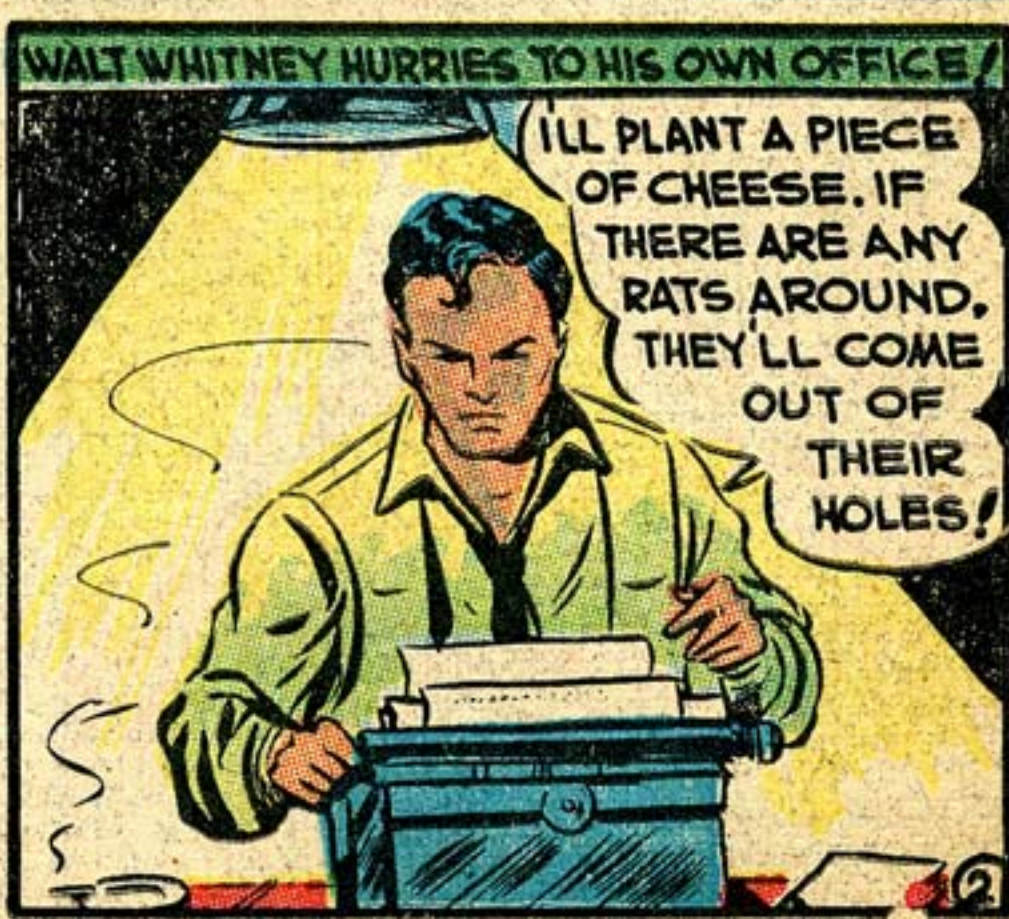
I'M POSITIVE IT'S MORE
THAN COINCIDENCE.
IN FACT, I'M SURE
IT'S MURDER!

AW! GO HOME
AND SLEEP IT
OFF.....AND DON'T
BE MAKING ANY
SMART CRACKS IN
YOUR COLUMN
ABOUT THE
POLICE, OR.....



OKAY, I WON'T DISTURB YOUR
BOYS AT THEIR CHECKER
GAMES. I'LL GET MY
PAL BOB PHANTOM
TO PUT THIS CASE
IN YOUR LAP,
AS USUAL!

WHY,
YOU.....



WALT WHITNEY HURRIES TO HIS OWN OFFICE!

I'LL PLANT A PIECE
OF CHEESE. IF
THERE ARE ANY
RATS AROUND,
THEY'LL COME
OUT OF
THEIR
HOLES!

NEXT DAY, WALT WHITNEY'S COLUMN IS READ BY HOSTILE EYES!

WH...WHA...THAT DIRTY SNOOPER WHITNEY!

WHAT'S UP, CHIEF?



on Broadway

YOUR BROADWAY CORRESPONDENT HAS DONE A LITTLE PERSONAL INVESTIGATING ON ALL THOSE RECENT NEWLYWED 'SUICIDES' AND HAS MADE STARTLING DISCOVERIES... BEING OF A VERY CONSIDERATE NATURE, HE DOES NOT WISH TO DISTURB THE POLICE AT THEIR DAILY NAP... SO HE WILL PASS IT ON TO YOU DIRECT... KEEP TUNED TO THIS COLUMN FOR FURTHER INFORMATION...

The roots of Wendell Wilkie's distaste for over-reaching stem back to a swart, German, whence all four of his father, who owned a library of... an quotations up the search... he, scolded in Liverpool, Ind... let... through the... volumes and ha...

I DON'T KNOW HOW THIS GUY GOT ALL THE DOPE, BUT WE AIN'T TAKIN' ANY CHANCES!

WE GOTCHA, BOSS!



THAT NIGHT, OUTSIDE WALT WHITNEY'S WINDOW!



I MUST'VE BEEN DREAMING..... NO, THERE IT IS AGAIN! SOMETHING'S TAPPING AT MY WINDOW. I'LL GO SEE WHAT IT IS!



THE GRIM DEATH SCENE IS RE-ENACTED!





A MARRIAGE AGENCY
BROUGHT US TOGETHER!
IT'S AT SIXTY
RIVER
STREET

CHIZZLER'S
AGENCY AT SIXTY
RIVER STREET?
THAT'S ALL I NEED
TO KNOW!



BOB PHANTOM'S ON OUR
TRAIL. HE JUST GOT THE
CRAWLER!

WHAT?
BOB PHANTOM!



IF BOB PHANTOM'S ON
TO US, THE GAME'S UP.
I'LL GET RID OF THESE
RATS SO THEY WON'T
TALK. AND THEN
CLEAR OUT!



OKAY, RATS! LINE
UP AGAINST THE
WALL!

HEY! WHAT'S
THIS! A DOUBLE-
CROSS?



YOU SUCKERS
DIDN'T THINK I
WAS GOING TO
SPLIT ALL THAT
INSURANCE
DOUGH WITH
YOU! TAKE
THAT!

JOE!
DON'T....
Oooo.



NOW FOR THE
DOUGH!



WITH THESE RECORDS
GONE THERE WON'T BE
A TRACE OF EVIDENCE
AGAINST ME!





SUDDENLY.....

I DON'T NEED EVIDENCE. I HAVE MY OWN WAY OF DEALING WITH MURDERERS LIKE YOU!

BOB PHANTOM!



YOU CAN'T STOP ME...WH...WHY DON'T YOU DIE? I'VE SHOT YOU... YOU CAN'T LIVE!

YOU CAN'T KILL JUSTICE!



DONT! DONT! I'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING! I DON'T WANNA DIE!

NEITHER DID ALL THOSE MURDERED GIRLS.... OR YOUR OWN CUT-THROATS!



BUT YOU'RE GOING TO, ANYWAY!

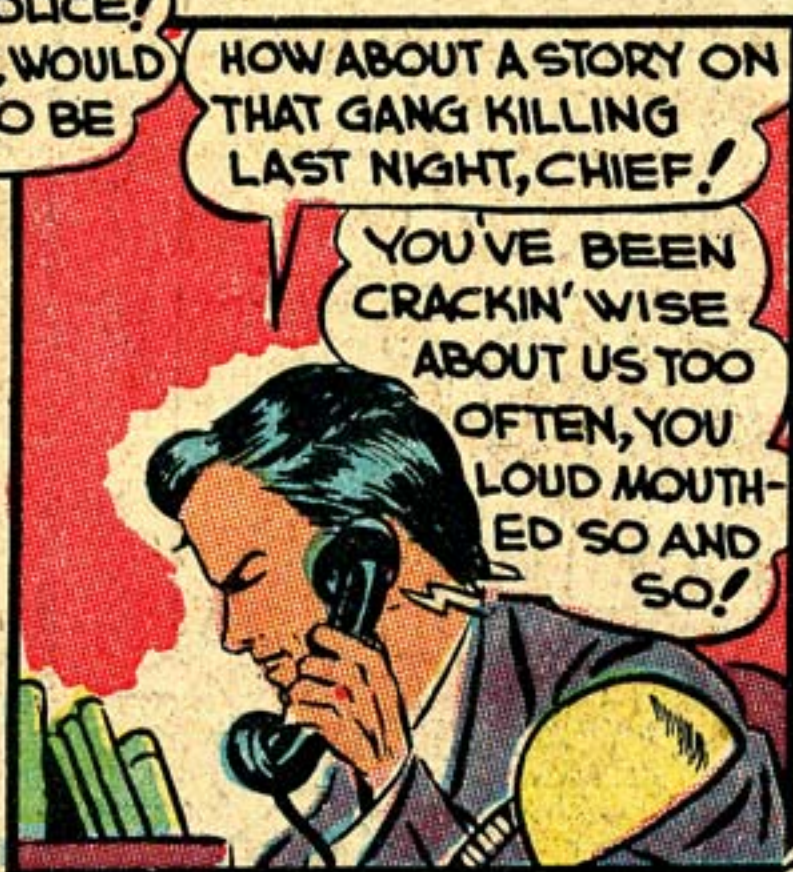
AAIIIEEE!



AND THAT, BOYS AND GIRLS, IS A TRUE PICTURE OF THE SWAGGERING, TREACHEROUS PARASITES WHO TERRORIZE SOCIETY. TAKE THE GUNS FROM THEIR HANDS, AND YOU HAVE..... JOE CHIZZLER!



FOOTSTEPS! IT MUST BE THE POLICE! AS MY FRIEND, WALT WHITNEY, WOULD SAY, "JUST ARRIVED IN TIME TO BE TOO LATE!"



HOW ABOUT A STORY ON THAT GANG KILLING LAST NIGHT, CHIEF!

YOU'VE BEEN CRACKIN' WISE ABOUT US TOO OFTEN, YOU LOUD MOUTHED SO AND SO!

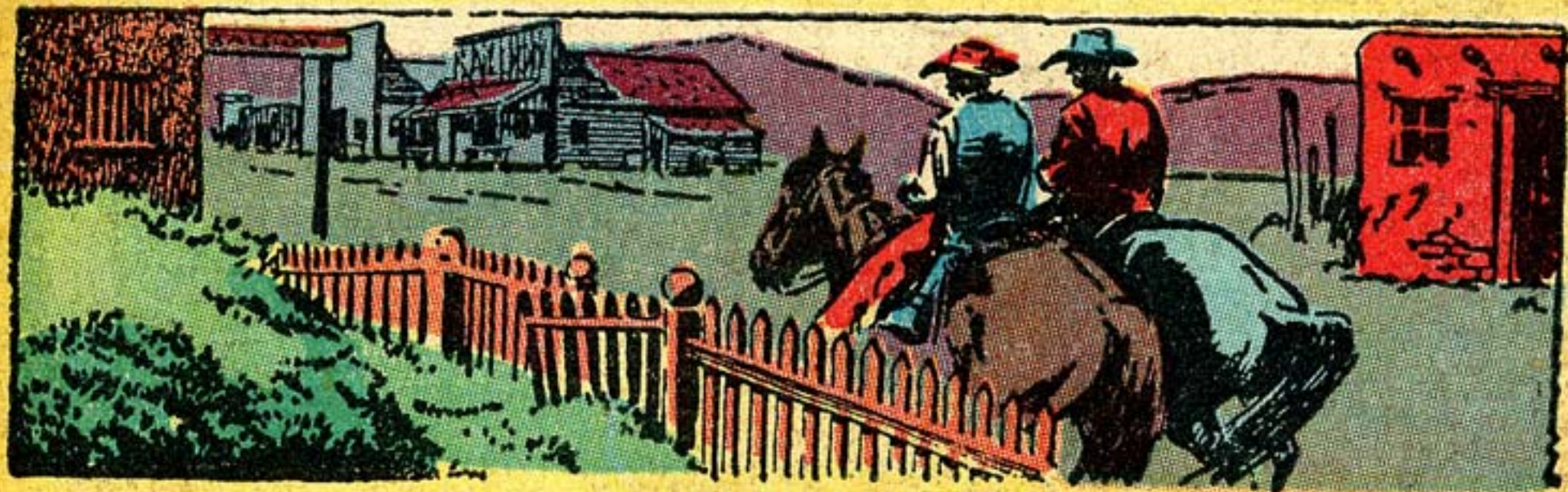


...AND FURTHER MORE, !!@*??

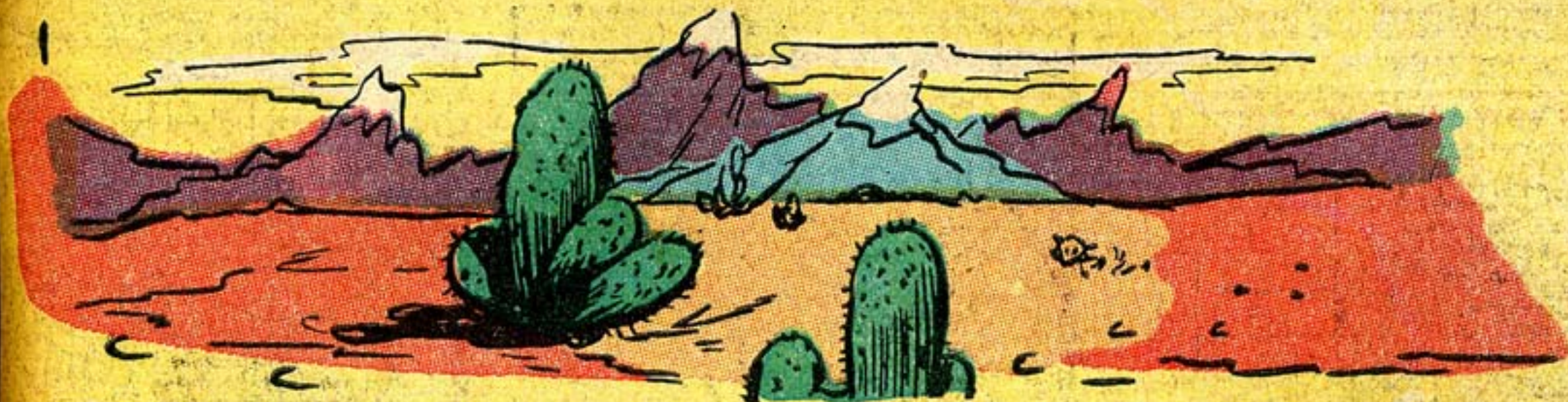
WOW! THANKS FOR THE STORY, CHIEF! TOO BAD I CAN'T PRINT IT!

BE SURE TO FOLLOW BOB PHANTOM THROUGH MORE EXCITING ADVENTURES AGAINST THE UNDERWORLD..IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF-

TOP-NOTCH COMICS



DUST FOR REDSKIN DIET!



IN OCTOBER of '79 fifteen Apaches, moving toward Old México from Fort Stanton, paused in a humorous way of theirs to get some salt and bean sacks from a camp of Mexican haycutters—this near Fabens, Texas. The joker of the sack-getting lay in the fact that five unsuspecting Mexicans were in camp and the Apaches moved as they would have gone about getting a bearskin—the live bear being inside of it.

At the Indians' first volley, the Mexicans gave one great, enthusiastic yell, all together. Then each man yelled in the fashion peculiar to his individuality and removed into the tall grass. Briefly, they went away from there, each Mex. reporting that the others had been slain.

Captain Baylor of Company A, Texas Rangers, with Sergeant Jim Gillett and nine rangers, followed the Apaches' trail down-river. At Guadalupe they crossed over, joining with Mexican volunteers. In that black, forbidding passage called the Cañon del Moranos, in the Sierras Bentanos, the Apaches holed up and Mexicans and rangers charged their position.

Sergeant Gillett led the rangers uphill. He

leaped to the crest of a boulder and faced a six-foot Apache with face attractively decorated in blues and crimsons. The Apache fired and missed. Gillett turned to warn the others, but there was no need; after the rifle-shot, words were mere surplusage—each ranger was outfitted with a boulder. Again the Apache fired; again he missed. Gillett's little carbine jerked up; the .44 bullet snapped the Apache's spine.

All day the firing continued. The Mexican contingent sent an Apache hurrying along the Road of Many Sleeps after Gillett's victim; the Apache's slew Second Sergeant Swilling's white horse. At which disaster the sergeant, envisioning a torturing walk in high-heeled boots, cursed mournfully and with some art. The rangers sympathized with him:

"Ah, quit your belly-achin', Sarge! Mebbe, come evenin', yuh won't need no hawss!"

The Apaches knew every rock of the sierra; they entrenched themselves so strategically that Baylor and the Mexican commander decided that it would entail a disproportionate loss of life to dislodge them. So they withdrew, their only casualty Swilling's horse.



KEITH KORNELL WEST-POINTER



IT IS THE DAY OF THE BIG ARMY-NAVY GAME IN PHILADELPHIA.....



WHILE OUTSIDE THE STADIUM!

IT'LL ONLY TAKE YOU A COUPLA SECONDS TO HOOK THOSE CADET UNIFORMS! I'LL KEEP THESE COPS BUSY

PLAYERS DRESSING ROOM

BUT I STILL DON'T GET THE SET-UP, MIKE!



OKAY, MIKE!

LISTEN DOPE, I'M TELLIN' YOU FOR THE LAST TIME. THOSE UNIFORMS ARE PRACTICALLY INVITATIONS TO THE SWANKIEST PARTIES. IT'S OUR CHANCE TO CLEAN UP! NOW GET GOING!



MIKE DELIBERATELY PICKS A FIGHT WITH A PASSERBY!

HEY, FATHEAD, WHY DON'T YOU WATCH WHERE YA GOIN'!

OOPS! SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN.....



OH, TRYING TO GET TOUGH ABOUT IT, HEY? WELL... COMB THIS OUTTA YOUR WHISKERS!

HEY!

BUT I TELL YOU I DIDN'T.....OWW!



A RIOT IS SOON PRECIPITATED!

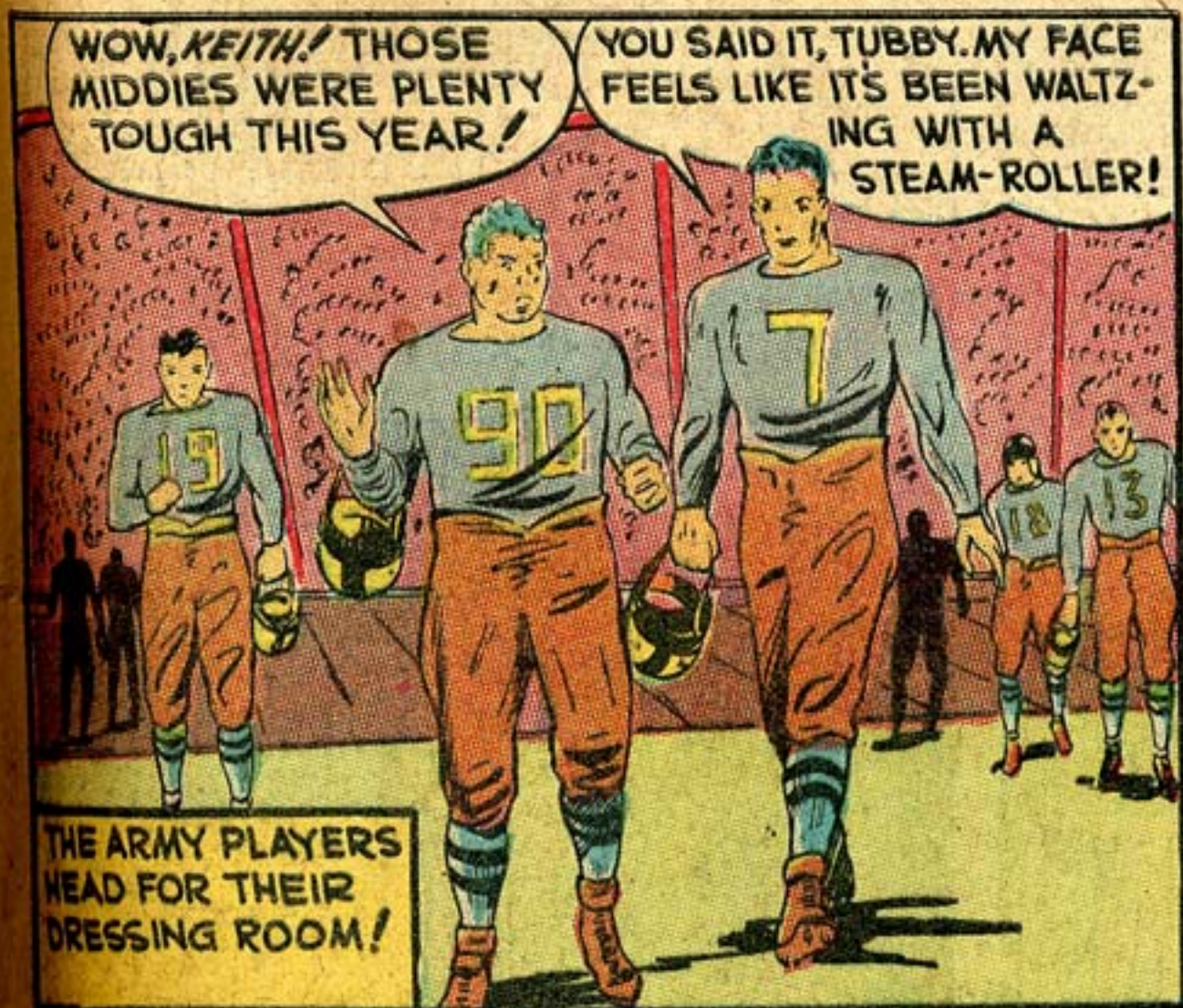
KEEP MOVING, EVERYBODY!

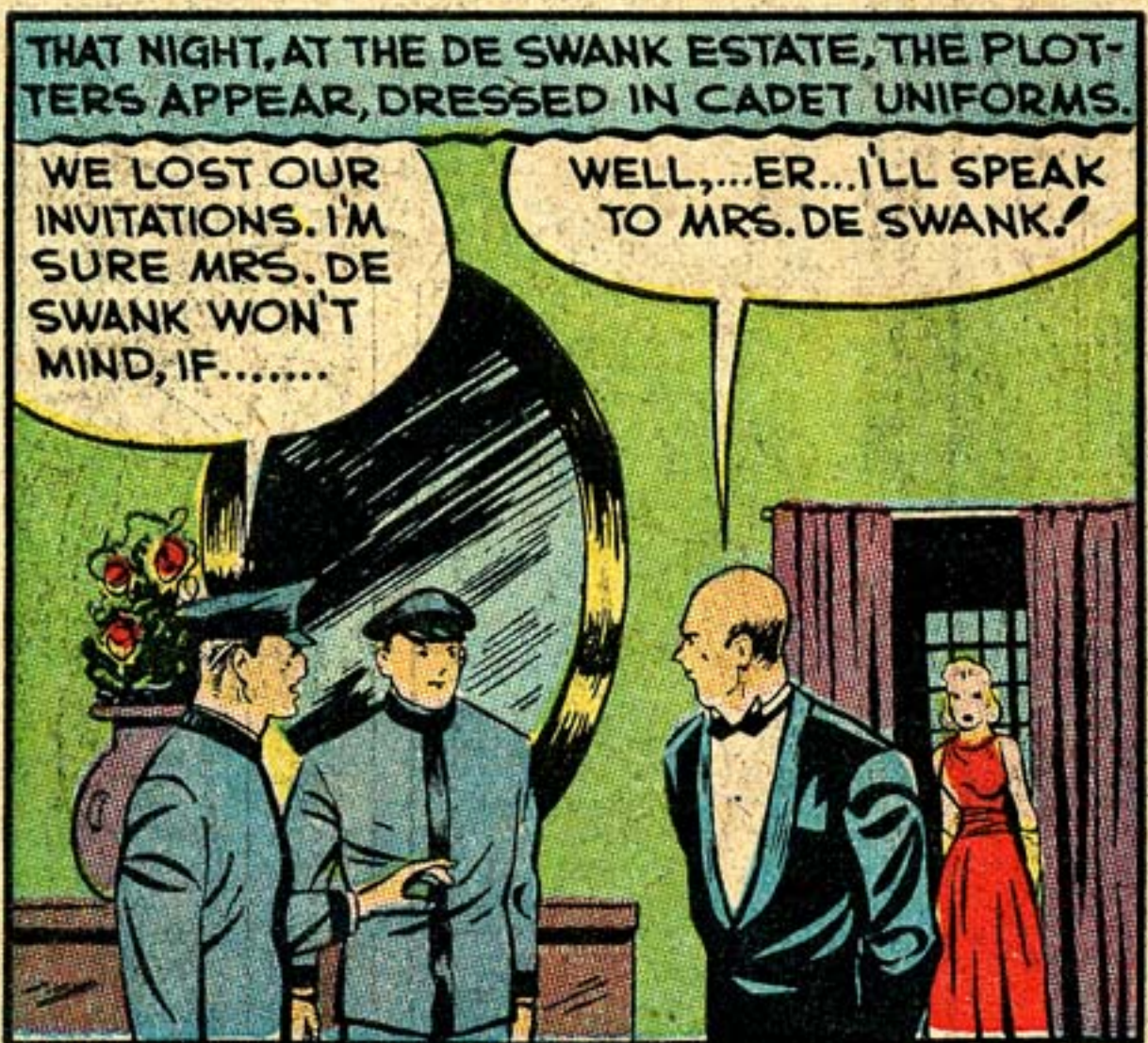
BREAK IT UP YOU TWO!

HE DELIBERATELY PICKED A FIGHT WITH ME!

NOW'S MY CHANCE!

AW! THE GUY'S NUTS!







HAND OVER YOUR DOUGH AND JEWELRY. AND NO SQUAWKS, OR IT'LL BE TOO BAD FOR THE DAME!

PLEASE! PLEASE! THEY'LL KILL GLORIA!

MRS. DE SWANK IS RIGHT! WE MUSTN'T RISK GLORIA'S LIFE. WE'VE GOT TO DO AS HE SAYS!

HERE'S MINE!

AND MINE!



AT THAT MOMENT, OUTSIDE THE ESTATE.....

WELL, HERE WE ARE, TUBBY! IT'S A CINCH WE WON'T CRASH THIS SHIN-DIG WITH THESE CLOTHES!

WELL, THAT'S A WALL AIN'T IT? AND WE'RE NOT CRIPPLED! SO WHAT'RE WE WAITIN' FOR?



EASY NOW TUBBY!



HEY! KEITH! LOOK! A DOG! AND HE DON'T MEAN US ANY GOOD!

JUST STAND AND LOOK HIM IN THE EYE, TUBBY! IF YOU SHOW HIM YOU'RE NOT AFRAID HE WON'T HURT YOU!



YEAH! WE KNOW THAT, BUT MAYBE THE POOCH DON'T! **GANGWAY!**

TUBBY! C'MON BACK!



MEANWHILE.....

C'MON, GET GOIN! YOU'RE ESCORTIN' US TO THE GATES! JUST IN CASE!

HA, HA! THIS IS THE CLEANEST JOB WE EVER PULLED! MIKE!



AN UNFORSEEN EVENT UPSETS THE CROOKS. TUBBY, RUNNING WILDLY FROM THE DOG, CRASHES INTO THEM!

HEY! WHAT IN....



HE MUST BE A DIRTY COPPER! I'LL FIX HIM!

HEY! OUCH...

HELP! POLICE!



JUST THEN ---
MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT! THOSE ARE THE CROOKS AND THEY'VE GOT TUBBY!



YOU MAY NOT BE A NAVY MAN! BUT, I'M GONNA SINK YOU ANYWAY!



THE POLICE SOON ARRIVE

HEY! WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?

IT ALREADY HAPPENED. THOSE MEN ARE CROOKS, AND... SAY! WHERE'S TUBBY?

GLORIA! GLORIA! ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

YES, MOTHER! THANKS TO THOSE BRAVE FELLOWS!



TUBBY'S VOICE, CALLING FOR HELP, BRINGS THEM RUNNING TO THE SCENE

GET THIS WOLF-HOUND OFFA ME, OR... OR... SO HELP ME I'LL KILL HIM!

HA! HA! THAT'S ANOTHER THING YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE FIDO BELIEVE, TUBBY!

AAA



WE'RE THE REAL CADETS, MRS. DE SWANK! THEY STOLE OUR UNIFORMS SO THEY COULD CRASH YOUR PARTY!

REAL CADETS AND SO BRAVE! ETHPETHIALLY THIS ONE! HEE-HEE

WON'T YOU STAY? I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU... ER... MORE PERSONALLY.



LATER ---

THIS DANCE IS THANKS ENOUGH FOR ME. ER... ESPECIALLY THE WAY YOU DANCE!

YOU MUST HAVE TAKEN A COURSE IN FLATTERY AT WEST POINT.... LOOK! HA! HA! YOUR CHUBBY FRIEND MADE QUITE A HIT!



THE WAY YOU FOUGHT THOSE KILLERS THIMPLY TOOK MY BREATH AWAY, TUBBY! I THIMPLY ADORE BRAVE MEN!

AW NUTS!

KEITH KORNELL FACES THE HARDEST TASK IN HIS CAREER AS A WEST POINTER IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF TOP NOTCH COMICS -

Corporal Collins

"INFANTRYMAN"
FIGHTS ON
AGAINST THE
ENEMY IN THE
NOVEMBER
ISSUE OF
BLUE RIBBON
COMICS

NOW ON SALE!!

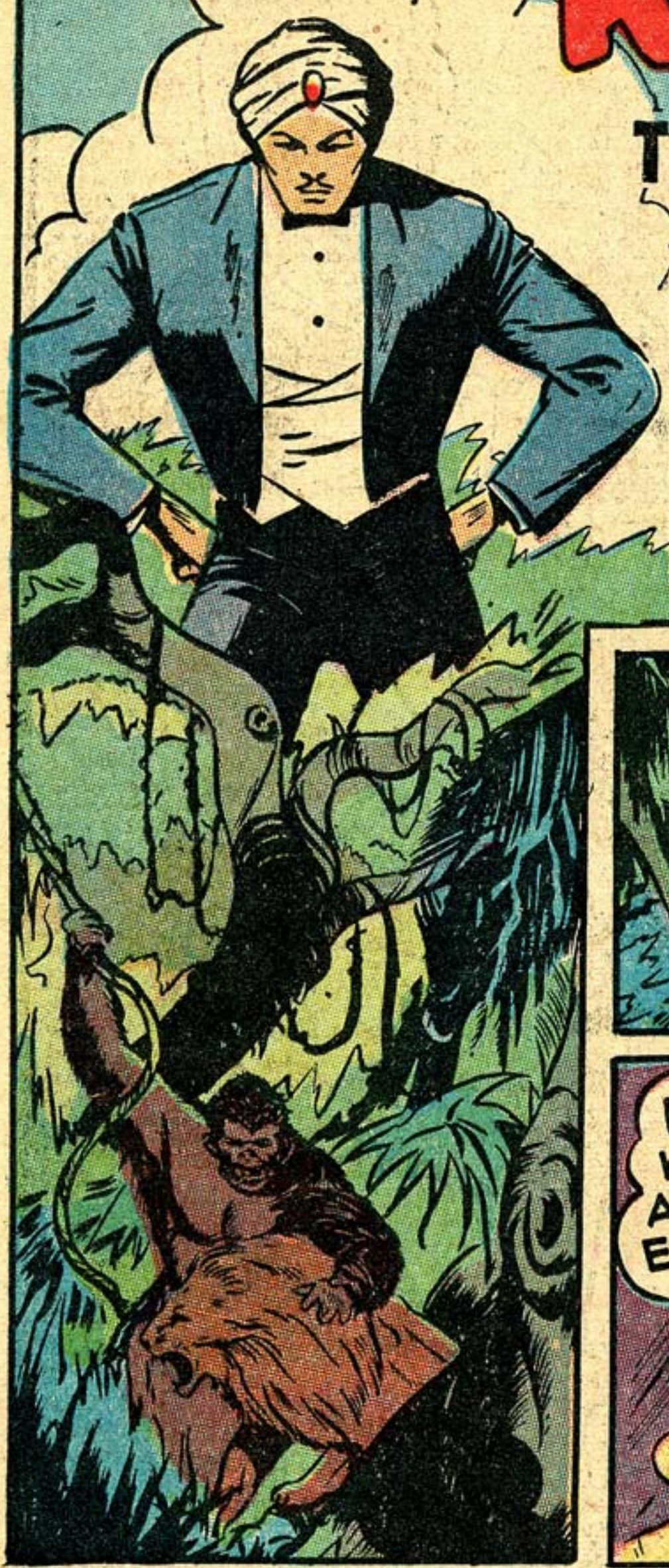


DON'T MISSTHIS
ACTION PACKED ISSUE OF
YOUR FAVORITE MAGAZINE!

by BEE STAYE

KARDAK

THE MYSTIC MAGICIAN



KARDAK, THE MYSTIC MAGICIAN, LORNA, HIS BEAUTIFUL FIANCEE, AND BALTHAR, THEIR FAITHFUL CAUCASIAN SERVANT, ARE ON THEIR WAY TO THE LAND OF THE MASTER BRAHMIN, MAGICAL ENEMIES OF CIVILIZATION. BUT IN ORDER TO GET THERE, THEY MUST FIRST PASS MANY OBSTACLES, EACH MORE FRIGHTENING THAN THE LAST. NOW THEY FIND THEMSELVES IN THE LAND OF THE BEAST-MEN!!



I THOUGHT YOU SAID THIS WAS THE LAND OF THE BEAST-MEN, BALTHAR. IT LOOKS LIKE PLAIN JUNGLE TO ME!



LOOK! KARDAK! A WHITE ELEPHANT!



HE'S SEEN US AND IS COMING AFTER US! RUN!



THAT OPEN PIT GIVES ME AN IDEA. A LITTLE MAGIC, AND.....



...THE BRANCHES FALL FROM THE TREES COVERING THE PIT!



PRESTO WE HAVE A NEAT TRAP FOR MR. ELEPHANT!

HO, HO! HIM SURE STICK-UM FOOT IN IT!



THE ELEPHANT THUNDERS TO A HALT, ON THE VERY BRINK OF THE TRAP...



GOOD HEAVENS! HE'S STOPPING AS THOUGH HE KNOWS THERE'S A TRAP!



IT'S TOO LATE TO RUN! IF IT HAD ENOUGH INTELLIGENCE TO NOSE OUT THE TRAP, MAYBE....



KARDAK EMPLOYS HIS AMAZING MAGIC!



IT WORKED! THE ELEPHANT THINKS IT SEES MICE!



NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO MAKE A BREAK.... SAY, DO YOU HEAR THAT ELEPHANT TRUMPETING?

IT.....IT ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE A SIGNAL!



OW! MORE GRIEF! THEY SEEM TO HAVE BEEN EXPECTING US! QUICK! WE'LL HAVE TO CLIMB INTO A TREE!



BALTHAR CATCHUM IN TIME!



IT'S UNBELIEVABLE! THEY SEEM TO HAVE THE MINDS OF HUMAN BEINGS!



ONE OF THE LIONS LAUNCHES HIMSELF IN A TREMENDOUS LEAP...



STAY BACK, MASTER!
BALTHAR
FIX SMART
LION!



BALTHAR STRANGLES
THE LION WITH HIS
BARE HANDS!



20

HELP!

SUDDENLY THE JUNGLE DIS-
APPEARS!...



AND THE LIONS SUDDENLY
CHANGE TO HORRIBLE
GREENISH MEN!

SEIZE
THEM!

DEATH TO
THE
MORTALS!



IT IS FOR OUR RULER
TO DECIDE THEIR FATE!
FOLLOW US, MORTALS!

WHAT A FOOL I WAS NOT TO
SUSPECT BEFORE! THESE
ARE THE BEAST-MEN,
LORNA!



THE CAPTIVES ARE MARCHED TO THE BEAST KING!

WE HAVE JUST CAUGHT
THESE TRESPASSERS,
OH, BEAST KING!

WHY DID YOU ALLOW
THEM TO KNOW THE
SECRET OF THE BEAST-
MEN KINGDOM?



ONE WAS TOO MAGICAL TO BE
KILLED WHILE WE WERE IN
THE GUISE OF BEASTS. THE
OTHER WAS TOO
STRONG!



DOGS! YOU IMPLY THAT
THEY ARE STRONGER
AND MORE MAGICAL
THAN THE BEAST-
MEN?



YES WE ARE.
IF WE PROVE
IT WILL YOU
LET US
GO?

IMPUDENT FOOL, I
ACCEPT YOUR CHAL-
LENGE. AND IF YOU
FAIL, YOU FORFEIT
YOUR
LIVES!



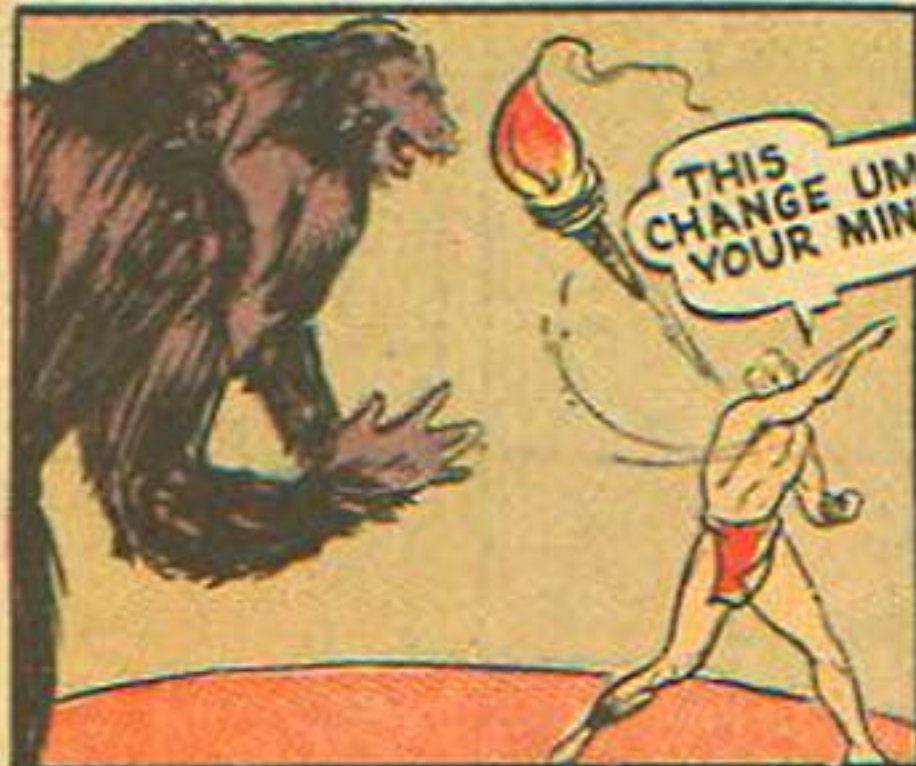
THE BATTLE IS VIEWED BY THE
ENTIRE BEAST-MEN KINGDOM!

ME SHOW UM BEAST-
MEN HOW TO FIGHT!



AS BALTHAR REMOVES THE TURBAN, IT SUDDENLY CHANGES TO A FLAMING TORCH!

ME UNDERSTAND..... ANIMALS MUCH AFRAID OF FIRE!



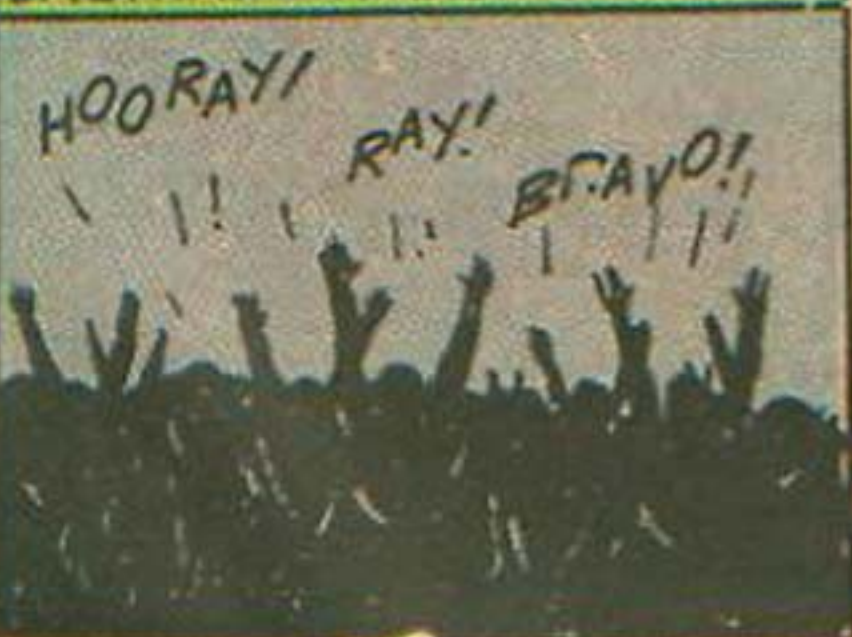
AT THE SIGHT OF FLAME, TWO OF THE GORILLAS CHANGE TO GREEN MEN.



BUT THERE IS ONE MORE GORILLA TO CONTEND WITH...



THE CROWD ROARS APPROVAL AT BALTHAR'S AMAZING TRIUMPH



YOU CAN GO FREE, BUT YOU'LL NEVER REACH THE LAND OF THE MASTER BRAHMIN'S ALIVE! THERE ARE TOO MANY OBSTACLES TO OVERCOME, EVEN FOR YOU!



CAN THE BEAST KING BE RIGHT? HAVE KARDAK, LORNA, AND BALTHAR COME THUS FAR, ONLY TO END UP IN FAILURE? ONLY FURTHER ISSUES OF **TOP-NOTCH COMICS** CONTAIN THE ANSWERS TO THESE SECRETS!